BALL BOY

The Beano 1993-1999

UK Comics Archive

Boutje Fedankt COMICS

BALL BOY

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Manager : Boutje Fedankt
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Boutje Fedankt Productions
UK COMICS

Content

488 pages with stories
from Beano 2633-2996
year 1993-1999

The strip was drawn by Malcolm Judge until his death in 1989. John Dallas took over from him afterwards, and drew it until his retirement in April 2003. Since then, the artist has been Dave Eastbury. Nigel Parkinson and Tom Paterson both occasionally draw the strip as well.

Gathered and compiled by Boutje Fedankt : Thanks to the scanners and original uploaders
Published at 29-11-2016 : Total pages 492, including the front- and backpage

Ball Boy is a strip in UK comic The Beano and also the name of the main character.
It first appeared in issue 1,735, dated 18 October 1975.
It features a five-a-side football team who usually lose all their matches, often heavily, that includes:

* Ball Boy – the captain of the team, Ball Boy bears resemblances to The Dandy's Owen Goal. He plays striker for the team. He has a minor part in The Beano Interactive DVD, playing football with a globe in a geography lesson.
* Titch – A small boy who (surprising considering his height) usually plays in defence. Little is known of Titch, although he was given his own short strip in The Beano Annual 2002.
* Dimmy – A defender, who is quite dim, hence his name. He looks a lot like Plug from the Bash Street Kids.
* Benjy – A good player on the team, Benjy seems to be vice-captain and is Ball Boy's best friend.
* Goalie – the goalkeeper. This character is an enigma in the sense that in some strips he is a superb goalkeeper and in others he is comically awful, letting in everything. There are a few strips where he just sits in the corner of the goal, reading, because the rest of the team can't get a shot on target.
* Chandra Singh – joined the team at the end of 2008 and is the team's most skilful player.

Ball Boy's team kit was originally a red and black vertical striped shirt and black shorts, but it later changed to blue and black stripes. One annual used white and black vertical stripes, but that was before the strip became full colour. Sometimes they get guest players joining the team for a strip, like Bea, or Gnasher.
The team sometimes also have other players featured, including a recurring black player called Elvis.
Paul Gascoigne made a guest appearance in the strip in 1993 in the issue celebrating Roger the Dodger's 40th anniversary when Roger, who was appearing in every strip in that week's comic, arranged for Gascoigne to sign up for the team.
Ball Boy and his team have both been at two World Cups. Italy in 1990 featured in that year's Beano Book and a long running strip in the comic appeared during the 1998 finals featuring the team in France.

BALL BOY
I'LL TRY A SHOT, BENJI!
GREAT GOAL!
PRESS!
WE COULD DO WITH A PLAYER LIKE THOSE TOY ONES IN OUR TEAM, BALL BOY.
HMM!
So, later —
THANKS A LOT, MR TAYLOR!
ANY TIME!
That afternoon —
PHEEP! FREE KICK!
OUCH! GREAT!
And —
WHAT A GOAL!
PRESS!
I CONVERTED THE DUMMY JUST LIKE THE ONES IN MY TABLE FOOTBALL GAME!
Soon —
I CAN'T MISS!
HEY! THEY ALL DIVED ON THE BALL!
PENALTY!
LET ME TAKE IT!
NO! IT'S MY DUMMY!
NO! ME!
I'LL TAKE IT!
YES! SAVED!
YEAH! YOU SAVED THE LEG, BUT NOT THE BALL.
ERK!
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BRASS BAND AT A FOOTBALL MATCH!
PARP!
PARP!
CHING! OOMPAH!

PHEE-PHEW!
OH-OH!
THE PEA'S COME OUT OF THE WHISTLE.

HOI!
I'LL HAVE THAT! YUM!
GASP!

So —
I CAN HELP YOU, REF!

YOU CAN USE THIS TUBA I BORROWED FROM THE BRASS BAND!

So —
GOOD PASS, DIMMY!
BLAST!

GOAL!
NO! I'VE STOPPED IT ON THE LINE!
IT'S UP TO THE REF!

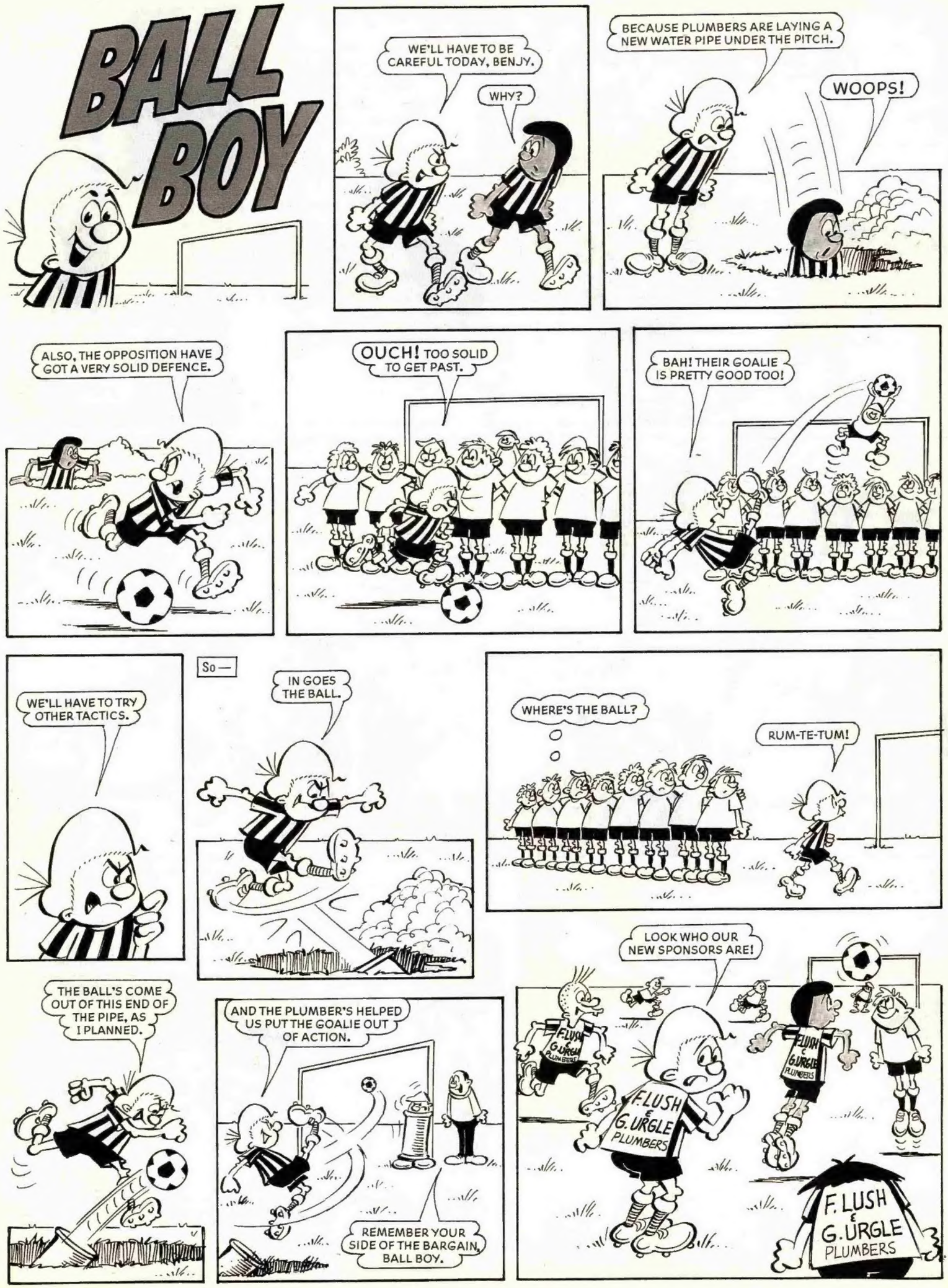
GASP! PANT! ER . . .
HE COULDN'T SEE. HE'S HALF WAY UP THE PITCH.

OH, HURRY UP! YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN UP WITH THE PLAY!
GRUNT! IT'S NOT EASY WHEN YOU'RE CARRYING A TUBA!

AND I'M SENDING YOU OFF FOR YOUR CHEEK!
YOU CAN'T SEND ME OFF!

OH, NO?
WAAAH!
BLAST!
HA-HA! OH, YES HE CAN!

BALL BOY
GOOD HEADING PRACTICE, THIS!
But—
EH?
HI! MY NAME IS NET GIRL! I LOVE NETBALL AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE FOOTBALL!
MUTTER! STUPID GAME
TELL YOU WHAT, BALL BOY — I CHALLENGE YOU TO SEE WHICH IS THE BEST SPORT OF THE TWO — FOOTBALL OR NETBALL!
YOU'RE ON!
So—
ERK!
HEH! THIS IS GOING TO BE EASY!
BUT HOW DO I SCORE?
EH?
HEH!
NOW, IT'S MY TURN!
SIMPLE!
So—
ER — NOT QUITE RIGHT, I GUESS.
CHORTLE! WHAT A MISS!
NETBALL'S NOT SUCH A BAD SPORT. CAN I GET A GAME?
SURE!
ER — SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU HAVEN'T QUITE GOT THE HANG OF THIS GAME!


BALL BOY
WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL TODAY, BENJY.
WHY?
BECAUSE PLUMBERS ARE LAYING A NEW WATER PIPE UNDER THE PITCH.
WOOPS!
ALSO, THE OPPOSITION HAVE GOT A VERY SOLID DEFENCE.
OUCH! TOO SOLID TO GET PAST.
BAH! THEIR GOALIE IS PRETTY GOOD TOO!
WE'LL HAVE TO TRY OTHER TACTICS.
So —
IN GOES THE BALL.
WHERE'S THE BALL?
RUM-TE-TUM!
THE BALL'S COME OUT OF THIS END OF THE PIPE, AS I PLANNED.
AND THE PLUMBER'S HELPED US PUT THE GOALIE OUT OF ACTION.
REMEMBER YOUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN, BALL BOY.
LOOK WHO OUR NEW SPONSORS ARE!
F.LUSH & G.URGLE PLUMBERS
F.LUSH & G.URGLE PLUMBERS
F.LUSH & G.URGLE PLUMBERS

BALL BOY

SIGH! OUR STRIPS ARE GETTING A BIT PAST IT!

Then —
I'D LIKE TO SPONSOR YOUR TEAM, BALL BOY!
GREAT!

I'LL GIVE YOU NEW STRIPS, BOOTS, BLAZERS AND TIES!
IT'S A DEAL!

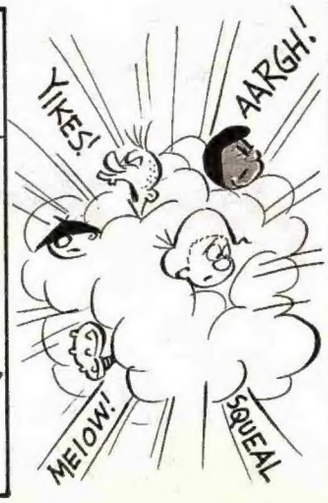
And —
WE'VE GOT OUR OWN COACH TOO!

But —
HEY! YOU DIDN'T TELL US YOU'RE A FISHMONGER!
DIDN'T I?
HAL.E BUTT
FISHMONGER

WATCH OUT FOR THAT DEFENDER, BENJI!

POO! WORRASTINK!
CHORTLE! NO-ONE WILL COME NEAR US! WE'LL WIN EASILY!

Then —
OH-OH! THOSE CATS MUST SMELL THE FISH!


YIKES!
AARGH!
MEIOW!
SQUEAL

GREAT! EVERYBODY WILL THINK MY FISH IS THE BEST IN TOWN!
GASP! THE D-DEAL'S O-O-OFF!
GROAN!

BALL BOY

HMM! WE'RE A MAN SHORT TODAY!

YOU CAN PLAY FOR US, MOGGY!
EH?

So —

And, so —
THAT'S GOT HIM INTERESTED IN THE BALL!

GOAL!

OH, NO! IT'S BURST THE BALL WITH ITS CLAWS!
HISSS!
BANG!

GET UP THE FIELD.

TO YOU, PUSS!

HOI! PAY ATTENTION!

So, later —
THIS SHOULD KEEP ITS ATTENTION.

WE NEED ANOTHER BALL!

I'LL MAKE SURE YOU WON'T GO NEAR IT!
?

HO! HO!
HELP!
HA! HA! BALL BOY'S DRAWN A DOG ON THE BALL THIS TIME!

BALL BOY

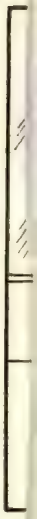
GROAN! SHOPPING WITH MUM CAN BE A DRAG!

SIGH! I COULD BE OUT PLAYING FOOTBALL!

Then —
BAKER
STOP! THIEF!
HEH!
G-GULP!

GREAT SLIDING TACKLE, BALL BOY!

WELL DONE!
OH, IT WAS NOTHING!



Then —
OH, NO! MY WATER MELON!

NNGH! GOT IT!

YOUR FOOTBALLING SKILLS SAVED THE DAY! HAVE A REWARD!
COO! TA!

I MUST GIVE YOU A REWARD!
NO! REALLY!

BALL BOY WILL ONLY TAKE A REWARD IF I GIVE IT TO HIM IN A FOOTBALL WAY!
NICE THROW IN!

GREAT SKILL, BALL BOY!
HO! HO! MUNCH! YUM!

BALL BOY

I'M HAVING A "FOOTGOLF" CHALLENGE WITH MY PAL!

TEE OFF!
THE ONE WHO GETS THEIR BALL IN THE HOLE IN THE LEAST SHOTS WINS.

Eventually—
ERK! IT'S GOING IN THE WATER!
MINE TOO!

NEVER MIND! AT LEAST MY BALL FLOATS!

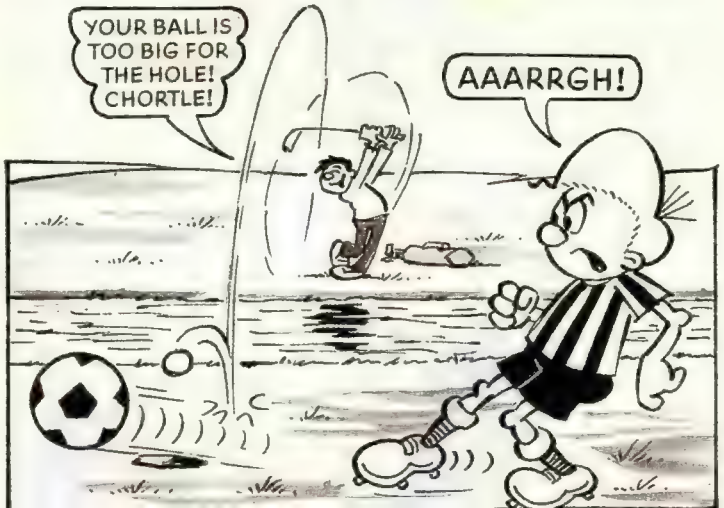
SO I WON'T LOSE ANY STROKES!
HUH!

AW! IN THE BUNKER!
HMM!

GRUNT! FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN . . .
EASY!

A NICE HEADER ON TO THE GREEN!

HO! HO! YOU'VE TAKEN LOADS OF STROKES — I'M GOING TO WIN!
OH, NO YOU'RE NOT!


YOUR BALL IS TOO BIG FOR THE HOLE! CHORTLE!
AAARRGH!

BALL BOY

SNIFF! I'M OFF TO PLAY FOOTBALL, MUM! COUGH!
OH, NO YOU'RE NOT!

YOU'RE NOT WELL — NO FOOTBALL FOR YOU TODAY.

PERFECT FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE!

GREAT SAVE!

I'LL HEAD IN THE REBOUND!

THAT'S WHAT MUM THINKS!

FIRST I NEED A GOALIE!

DO YOU LIKE MY HOT WATER BOTTLE?

YERK!

I'VE HAD TO ABANDON MY GAME . . .

. . . THE PITCH IS WATERLOGGED!

BALL BOY

WHAT'S ALL THIS, BALL BOY?
GOOD! THEY'VE ARRIVED!

I ORDERED THESE MACHINES TO HELP YOU RELAX BEFORE A GAME!
COO!

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT AS A THROW-IN!

BEING THE REF, I'LL HAVE A GO, TOO!

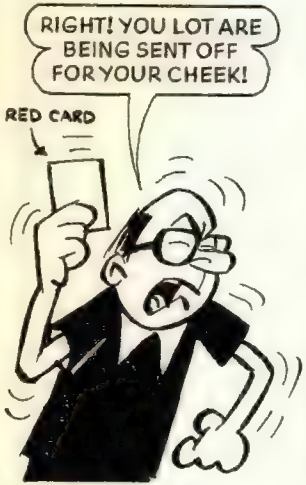
Then —
I SHOULD BE GOOD AT THIS — I'VE GOT PERFECT EYESIGHT!

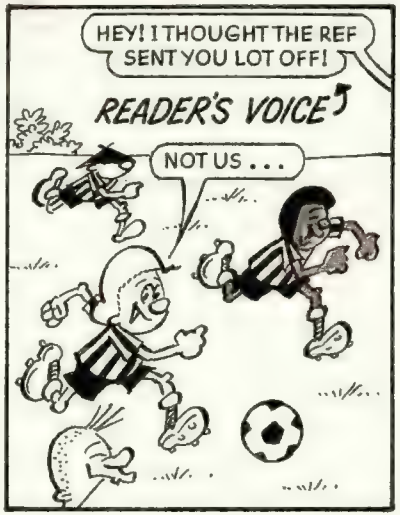
HO! HO! THE REF'S AS BLIND AS A BAT!
I HEARD THAT!

THIS IS A TEST YOUR STRENGTH MACHINE!

WELL DONE, DIMMY!
YAHOO!
WOW! WHAT A SHOT!

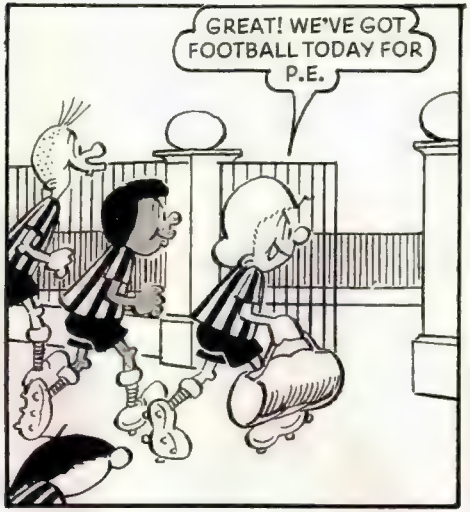
Next —
GREAT! I LOVE THE COCONUT SHY!


RIGHT! YOU LOT ARE BEING SENT OFF FOR YOUR CHEEK!
RED CARD


HEY! I THOUGHT THE REF SENT YOU LOT OFF!
READER'S VOICE
NOT US . . .

. . . HE WAS TALKING TO THE COCONUTS!
AND ANOTHER THING — GET A DECENT HAIRCUT!

BALL BOY


GREAT! WE'VE GOT FOOTBALL TODAY FOR P.E.

But —
HUMPH! MUSIC CLASS FIRST, THOUGH!
SING, BALL BOY!

. . . TA-DAA! A WOODEN GOALIE AND GOALPOSTS!
GASP!

In cookery class —
THAT TABLET LOOKS WONDERFUL.

GET YOUR HOT PIES AND STEAMING CUPS OF TEA BEFORE KICK-OFF!

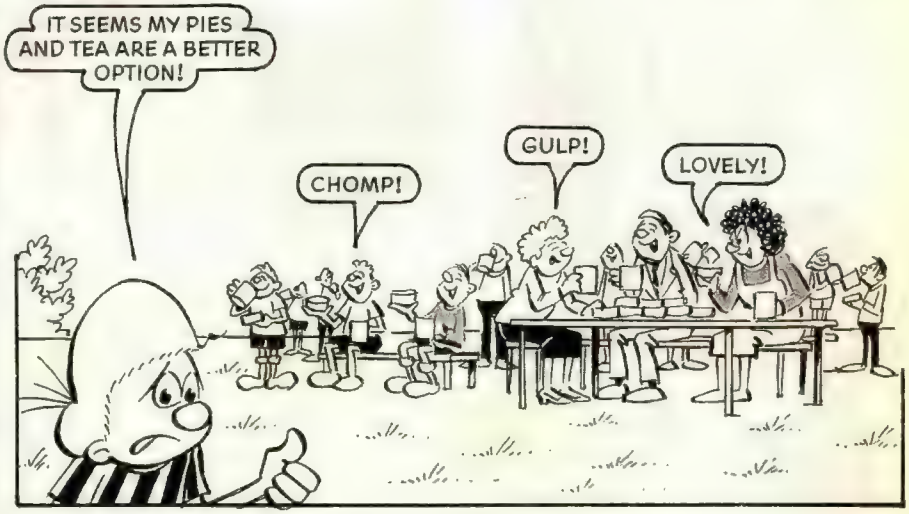
♫ALL WE ARE SAYING♫ IS GIVE US A GOAL!
HMM! NOT QUITE WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

Next —
WOODWORK, CLASS NOW!

I KNOW WHAT TO MAKE . . .

ER — VERY GOOD, BALL BOY! AHEM!

Eventually —
GROAN! FOOTBALL HAS BEEN CANCELLED!


IT SEEMS MY PIES AND TEA ARE A BETTER OPTION!
CHOMP!
GULP!
LOVELY!

BALL BOY

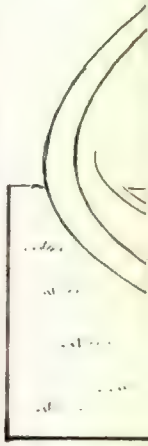
WAAH! THERE'S A DEMOLITION CRANE SWINGING ITS BALL AT US!
SWOOSH!

IT'S OKAY! I'VE REPLACED THE DEMOLITION BALL WITH A FOOTBALL!

OOF!

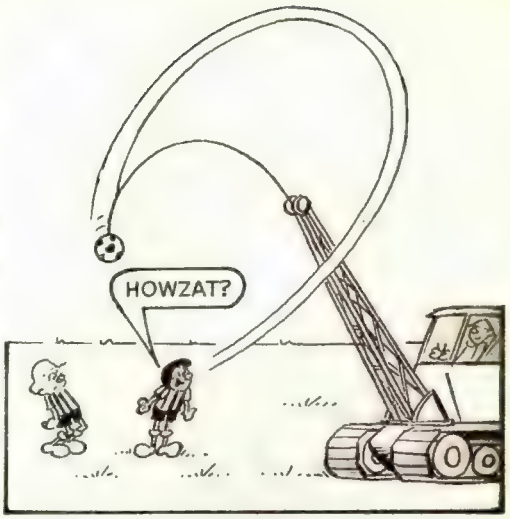
RIGHT! YOU SAVE THE BALL IF IT SWINGS OVER AGAIN!
OKAY!

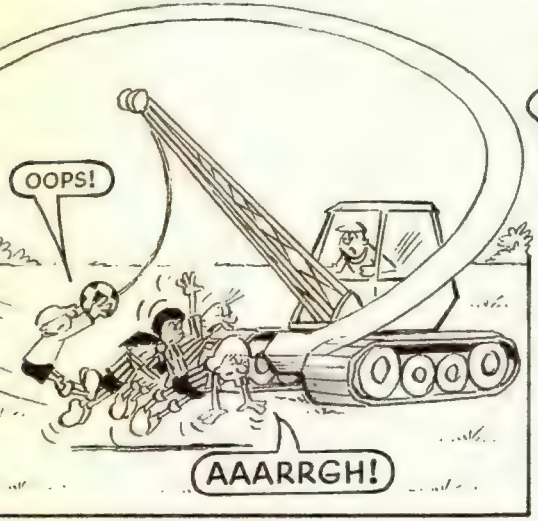
GOT IT, BALL BOY!

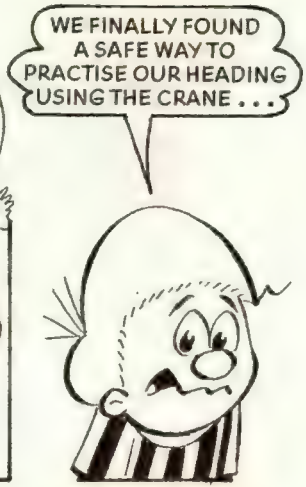


I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HEADING PRACTICE!

GOOD HEADER, BENJI!


HOWZAT?


OOPS!
AAARRGH!


WE FINALLY FOUND A SAFE WAY TO PRACTISE OUR HEADING USING THE CRANE . . .

. . . I'M NOT SURE IF IT WILL BE USEFUL IN A MATCH, THOUGH!

BALL BOY

I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY TODAY!

But —
OH, NO!
SORRY! GAME CANCELLED TODAY!

HEY, REF! THEY'RE FOULING US!
PLAY ON!
BOOT!

HAR-HAR!
HELP!
EASY!

Then —
EH?
HOI!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO GO HOME!

HO-HO! WE REALLY APRIL FOOLED BALL BOY THERE!
HO-HO!

But —
OO-ER! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE OPPOSITION!

YES! WHAT A GOAL!

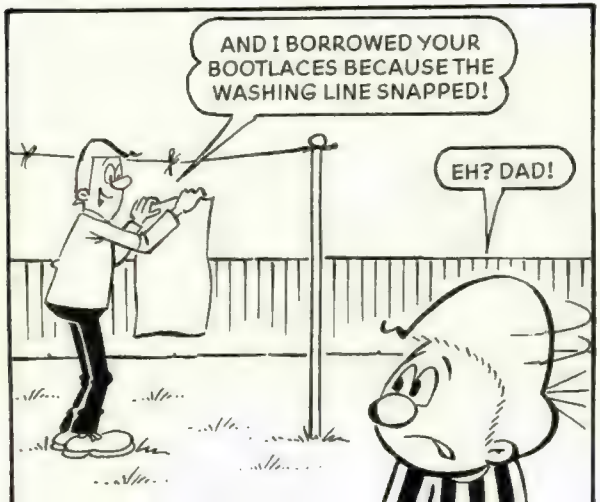
APRIL FOOL!
WOW! IT'S BALL BOY!

I MET THE REAL REF ON MY WAY HOME AND HE LET ME GET MY OWN BACK ON YOU!
HO! HO! BALL BOY'S NO FOOL!

BALL BOY

JUST PUTTING MY BOOTS ON!

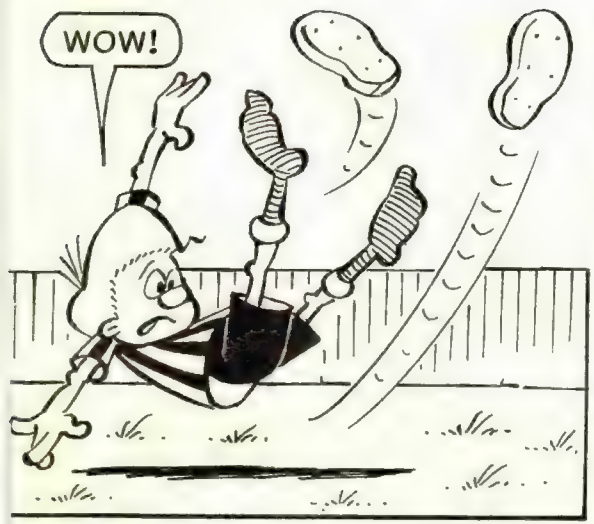
HMM! FEELS ODD!


AND I BORROWED YOUR BOOTLACES BECAUSE THE WASHING LINE SNAPPED!
EH? DAD!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I CAN'T PLAY FOOTBALL WITHOUT THEM!

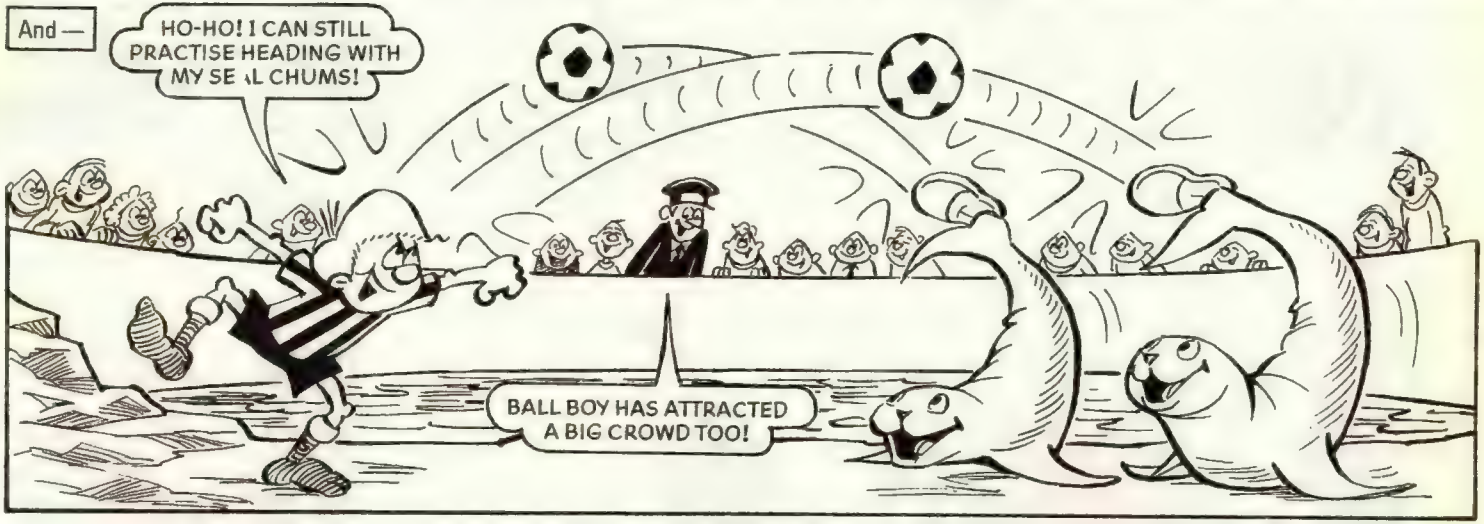
HEY! I'VE GOT IT!

So, later on —
THANKS!
NO PROBLEM, BALL BOY!


WOW!

GASP! THE LACES AND STUDS ARE MISSING!

GASP! MUM!
I BORROWED YOUR STUDS BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND MY HAIR ROLLERS!

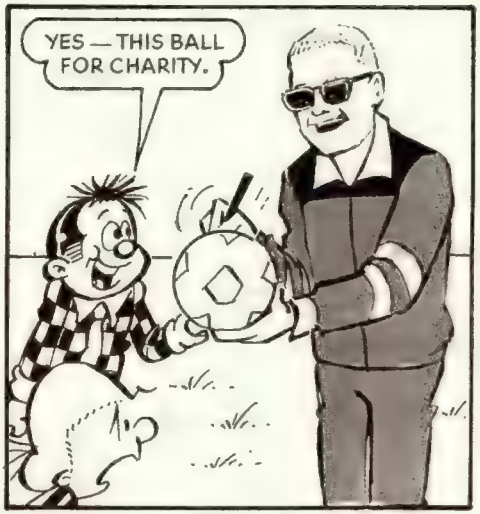

And —
HO-HO! I CAN STILL PRACTISE HEADING WITH MY SEAL CHUMS!
BALL BOY HAS ATTRACTED A BIG CROWD TOO!

SIGN FOR OUR TEAM! GO ON! GO ON!
HAR-HAR!

THAT WAS JUST A DODGE — I PUT BUBBLEGUM ON MY SHOE!

HUH! PITY — WE BADLY NEED NEW PLAYERS.
MAYBE I CAN HELP. LET ME MAKE A PHONE CALL.

Then —
WOW! GAZZA IS GOING TO SIGN!


YES — THIS BALL FOR CHARITY.

Later —
SIGH! I GOT SO MANY PLAYERS, I CAN'T GET A GAME!

BALL BOY

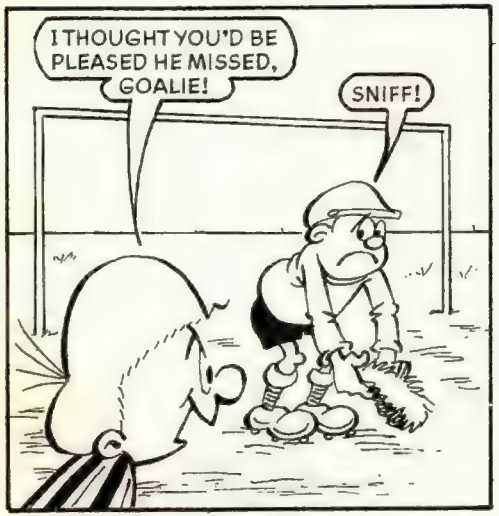
HEH! I'M GOING TO SCORE!

WOOPS!

So—
GOOD! NO-ONE AROUND!

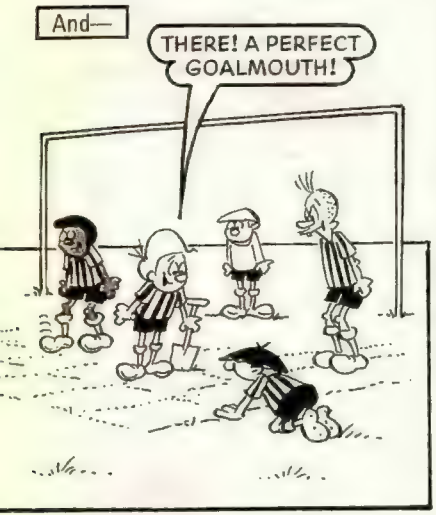
LET'S GO TO WORK!

GRR!
RUN!

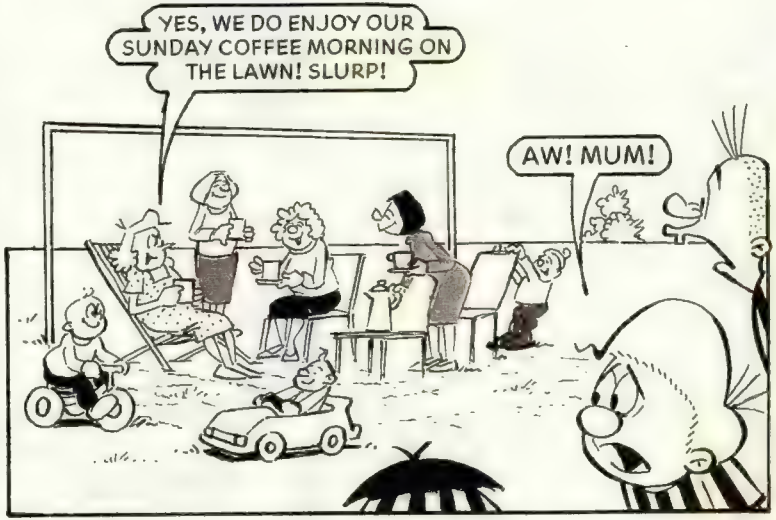

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE PLEASED HE MISSED, GOALIE!
SNIFF!

THAT WAS THE VERY LAST PIECE OF GRASS IN MY GOAL! IT'S COMPLETELY BARE NOW!
PAT

WE'LL NEED TO DO SOMETHING!


And—
THERE! A PERFECT GOALMOUTH!

AH! THERE IT IS!


YES, WE DO ENJOY OUR SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING ON THE LAWN! SLURP!
AW! MUM!

BALL BOY

READY!
EH?

UP THOSE STAIRS AND GET CHANGED AT ONCE!
AW! BUT IT'S ONLY A STUPID WEDDING WE'RE GOING TO!

OH, NO!

WHAT WILL I DO?

YOU CAN WEAR MY SUIT, GROOM!
GET YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON RIGHT NOW!

And, soon—
THAT'S BETTER!
IT'S TIME TO GO!

WE LOOK REALLY CLASSY IN THE BACK OF THIS CAR!

GROAN! NOT ANY MORE!
WAY-HAY! IT'S JUST LIKE GOING TO AN AWAY GAME!

IT'S OKAY! I WAS WEARING MY FOOTBALL STRIP ALL THE TIME!
PHEW! YOU'VE SAVED THE DAY, BALL BOY!

And later—
SMILE, EVERYONE!
GRR!
TUT! TUT!
MOAN!
HMPH!

THERE IS JUST NO PLEASING SOME PEOPLE! GROAN!
CLIVE AND DOREEN 1993

BALL BOY

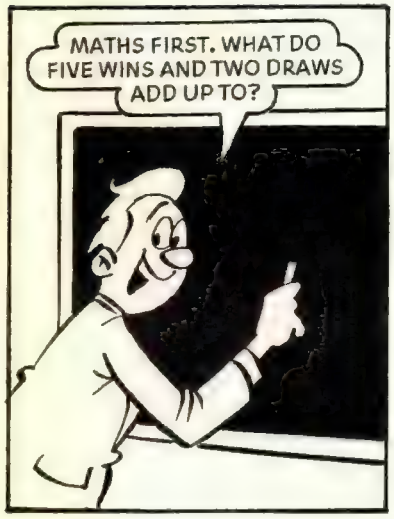
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET TO SCHOOL!
EH?

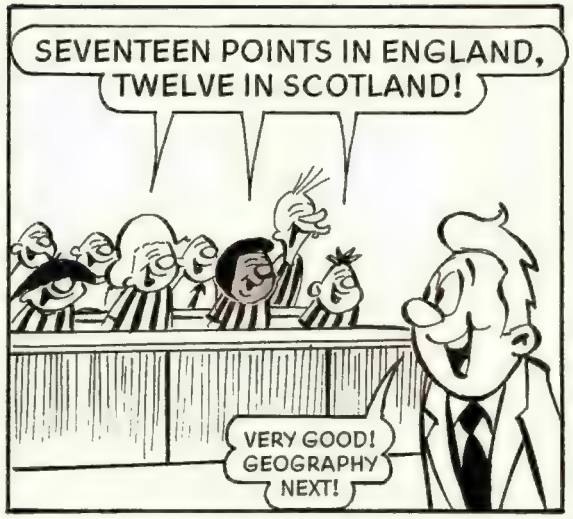
And, soon —
OUR NEW TEACHER LOVES FOOTBALL!
KICK OFF TIME, CLASS!

IT'S JUST WHERE I KICKED IT, SIR!

HMM! YOU'VE MADE A HUGE DENT THERE — BETTER TRY ANOTHER SUBJECT!

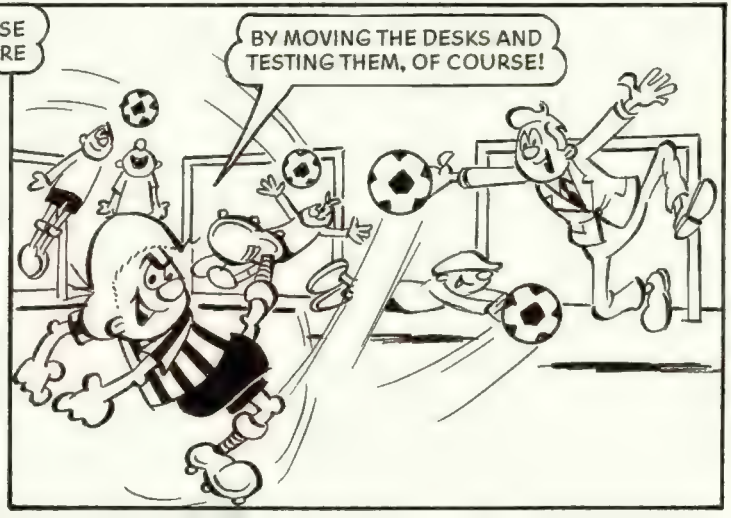
WOODWORK!


MATHS FIRST. WHAT DO FIVE WINS AND TWO DRAWS ADD UP TO?


SEVENTEEN POINTS IN ENGLAND, TWELVE IN SCOTLAND!
VERY GOOD! GEOGRAPHY NEXT!

POINT OUT TIBET ON THIS GLOBE!

And —
HOW WILL WE DECIDE IF THESE GOALPOSTS YOU'VE MADE ARE ANY GOOD?


BY MOVING THE DESKS AND TESTING THEM, OF COURSE!

But —
BAH! THE HEADMASTER HAS SENT HIM OFF!
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN SACK A TEACHER LIKE HIM!

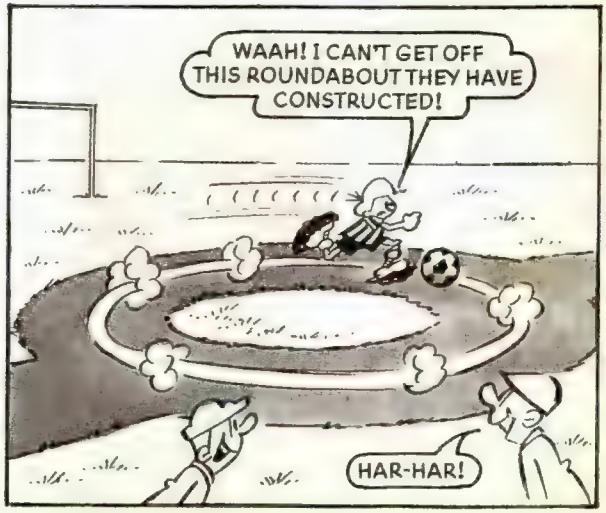
BALL BOY

WONDER WHAT THIS LOT DO?

THEY MUST BE ROAD WORKERS!

Later—
I'M GOING ALL THE WAY WITH THIS ONE!

A few minutes later—
GASP! HOW FAR AWAY IS THE GOAL?
NOT FAR AT ALL!


WAAH! I CAN'T GET OFF THIS ROUNDABOUT THEY HAVE CONSTRUCTED!
HAR-HAR!

ERK! MY FEET ARE STUCK IN THE FRESH TARMAC!
HEH!

OH-OH! BETTER DO AS THE SIGN SAYS!
KEEP LEFT

And—
EASY!
OH, NO!
KEEP LEFT

Then—
OH, COME ON, BALL BOY'S TEAM! GET BACK AT THEM!
PARP!

And—
GOAL!
READER
HEY! WHERE ARE THE OPPOSITION?

HO! HO! THEY THOUGHT THAT HOOTER MEANT IT WAS TIME FOR A TEA BREAK!

BALL BOY

OUR NEW PLAYER SHOULD BE A GREAT HELP TO US!

LANKY FRANKIE'S SO TALL HE SCORES LOADS OF HEADED GOALS.

BAH! WE HAVE TO DIG A HOLE BEFORE WE CAN GET THE PHOTO TAKEN!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD GET FRANKIE INTO THE PICTURE!

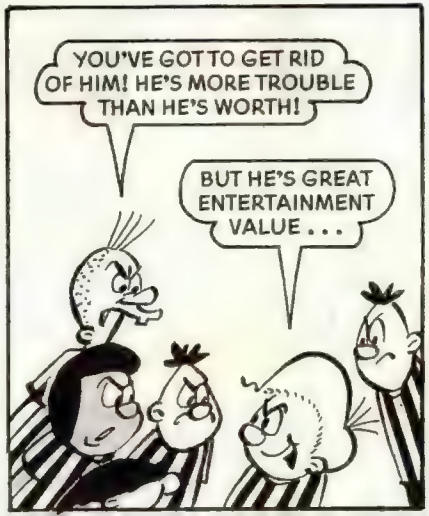
WE NEED A BATH AFTER ALL THAT DIGGING!

HALF TIME.
YUM! NOW FOR SOME TASTY ORANGES!

I SCORED ALL THE GOALS, SO I SHOULD EAT THEM ALL!

Then —
I WANT A TEAM PHOTO!
GREAT!

But —
HO! HO! NO ROOM FOR YOU LOT WITH ME IN HERE!
GASP!


YOU'VE GOT TO GET RID OF HIM! HE'S MORE TROUBLE THAN HE'S WORTH!
BUT HE'S GREAT ENTERTAINMENT VALUE . . .

. . . WHEN HE TRIES TO GET INTO ONE OF OUR TEAM TRACKSUITS!
HA! HA!

BALL BOY

HOT AIR BALLOONS COME IN ALL SHAPES THESE DAYS!

THIS IS OUR FAVOURITE, THOUGH!

OH, NO! WE'RE GOING TO HIT THAT TREE!

But, then—
LOOK!

OH, NO! LOOK WHAT ELSE IS UP HERE!

Then—
A FOOTBALL BOOT SHAPE BALLOON!

PHEW! SAVED BY A GOALIE GLOVE SHAPE BALLOON!

THAT GLOVE PUNCTURED US! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT . . .

. . . EVERY SHAPE YOU COULD EVER NEED IS UP HERE — EVEN FOOTBALL PUMP SHAPE BALLOONS!

BALL BOY

OH, NO! IT'S THE FUSSIEST REFEREE IN THE LEAGUE TODAY!

HMM! LET'S SEE!

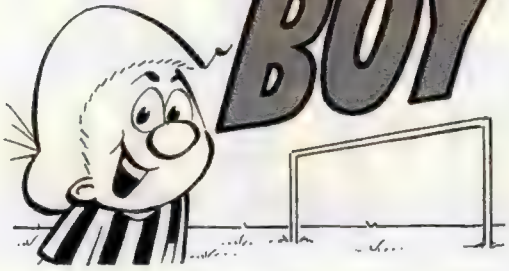
WE'RE KEEPING YOUR BALL! HEH!
GROAN! THAT'S THE END OF OUR GAME!

YOU ARE NOT WEARING REGULATION ATTIRE TO PLAY WITH AN APPROVED MATCH BALL!

ALSO, THE WEARING OF THAT FASHIONABLE EAR DECORATION IS POSING A DANGER TO BOTH YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU IN A SOCCER ENVIRONMENT!

EXCELLENT! THE BALL WEIGHT ND CIRCUMFERENCE ARE CORRECT.
THE CORNER FLAGS ARE OF STANDARD HEIGHT AND ALL LINES ARE CLEARLY MARKED TO THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS. PLAY MAY PROCEED.
COO!
And, during the game —
OH, NO!
LET'S GET IT!
IT BREAKS LAW 68B WHICH STATES . . .
WELL DONE, REF! YOU'VE BORED THEM TO SLEEP!
ZZZ!
ONE REFEREE, THERE'S ONLY ONE REFEREE!
ER — I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN ALLOW THIS!

BALL BOY



GREAT! WE WON!
FULL TIME!
PHEEEP!

I CAN'T WAIT TO WASH OFF ALL THIS MUD!
ME TOO!

WAAAH! AND I DON'T THINK THOSE DUCKS ARE HAPPY ABOUT IT!
WASHING IN OUR POND? CHEEK!

Later —
THAT ELEPHANT COULD HOSE US DOWN IF WE MAKE IT ANGRY!

HOI! UGLY MUSH!
BIG EARS! HAR-HAR!

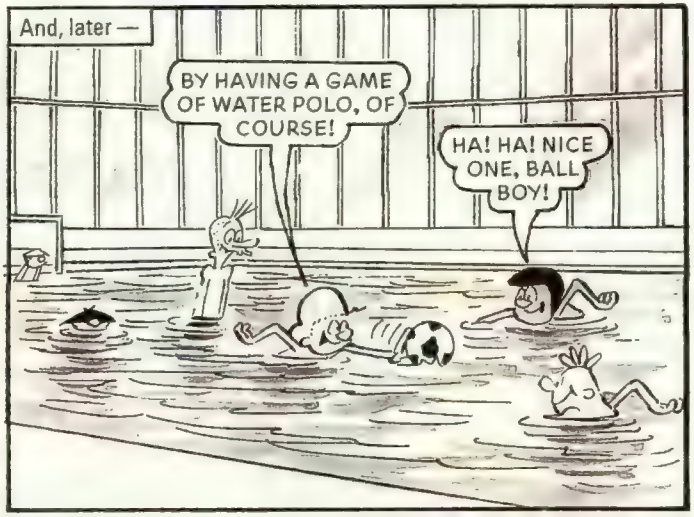
But —
SORRY, LADS, BUT ONE OF THE PIPES BURST — NO WATER!

So —
WE COULD USE THIS POND!

IT'S NOT VERY DEEP, BALL BOY!

OUCH!
AARGH! PEANUTS — NOT WATER!

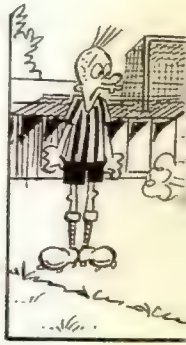
I KNOW HOW WE CAN PLAY AND GET CLEANER THE LONGER WE PLAY!
BUT HOW!

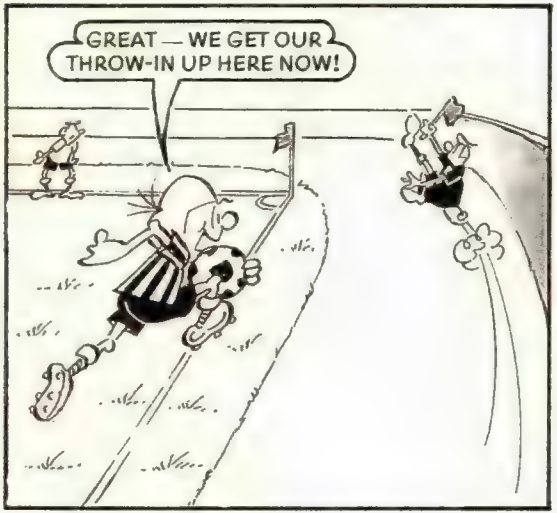

And, later —
BY HAVING A GAME OF WATER POLO, OF COURSE!
HA! HA! NICE ONE, BALL BOY!

BALL BOY

WHAT A NICE RABBIT!

AW! IT'S RUN OFF!




GREAT — WE GET OUR THROW-IN UP HERE NOW!

BAH! IT'S STARTING TO RAIN, BOSS.
WE CAN SHELTER IN THESE!

IT'S GREAT PLAYING NEXT TO A GREYHOUND TRACK!
OO! AARGH!

DAFT DIMMY! WE'RE PLAYING ON A PITCH WITH A GREYHOUND TRACK ROUND IT TODAY — THAT WAS THE MECHANICAL HARE!

I DON'T THINK THE LINESMAN HAS NOTICED EITHER!
WHIRRR!

HA-HA!
WAAAH!

BUT THERE IS ONE DRAWBACK . . .
..THERE IS ONLY ONE SET OF DRESSING ROOMS — AND THEY ARE WINNING THE RACE TO THEM!

BAH! FORGET WHAT I SAID ABOUT LIKING GREYHOUND TRACKS.

BALL BOY
I'M JUST BACK FROM MY HOLIDAYS IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS!
I BROUGHT THESE BACK AS A SOUVENIR!
But—
WHAT WILL WE PLAY FOOTBALL WITH NOW?
I KNOW . . .
. . . THIS HAGGIS WILL MAKE A GOOD BALL!
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD HAVE KICKED IT NEAR HIM!

SSSS
SSSS!
OOPS! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!

NEVER MIND — I'LL SOON RE-INFLATE THESE!

BAH! THAT DIDN'T WORK!
WHEEE!
WHEEE!
WHEEE!

OU'VE RUINED OUR GAME, BALL BOY! GRR!
ER . . . TIME TO GIVE MY PRESENT TO YOU.
MUNCH!
MUNCH!

And—
WHA-A-AT?

BAH! TRAPPED BY THIS GIANT KILT!
HO-HO!

BALL BOY

OH, NO! IT'S HOTSHOT HIGGINS!

HE'S GOT ONE POWERFUL KICK.

WHAT A GOAL!
GOOD! HE'S NOT LOOKING!
OIL
SQUIRT

And —
WAAH!
AS I PLANNED!

THERE GOES THE OTHER ONE!

THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE A HURT HIM SO MUCH.

MY HANDS! HE'S MADE A HOLE IN THEM!
SEE!
HEY, FAT BOY. YOU GO IN GOAL INSTEAD.
CHOMP! OK!
But —
OO-OO-OOF!
OUCH! MY POOR TOOTSIES.
YEOWCH!
AHA! HIS BOOTS HAVE COME BACK FROM ORBIT.
NO WONDER HOTSHOT HAD A KICK LIKE A HORSE. HE HAD HORSESHOES IN HIS BOOTS.
WHAT A CHEAT!
SERVES HIM RIGHT!

BALL BOY

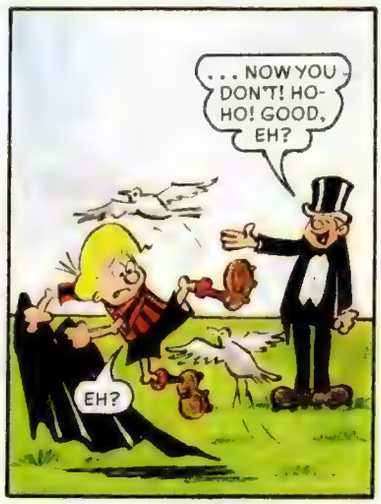
HMM! THE OPPOSITION HAVEN'T TURNED UP!

FLASH

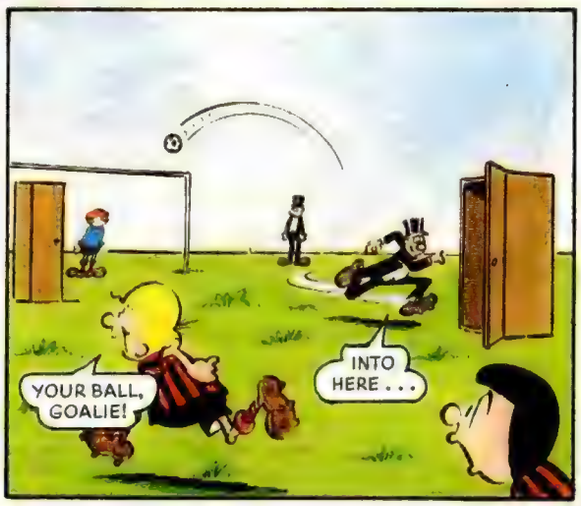
TA-RA! HERE WE ARE, BALL BOY!
IT'S THE LOCAL MAGICIANS' CLUB! THIS COULD BE TRICKY!

The game begins.
MY BALL!

But —
NOW YOU SEE IT . . .

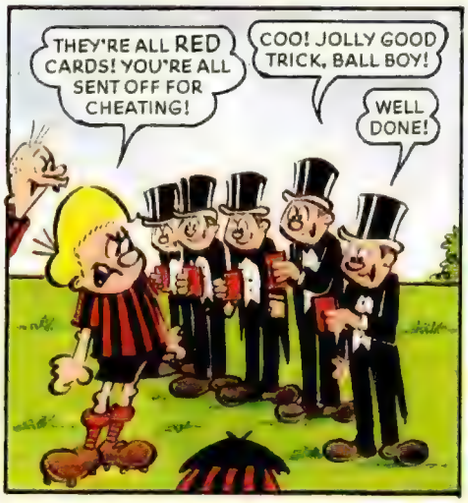

. . . NOW YOU DON'T! HO-HO! GOOD, EH?
EH?

Later —
THAT SHOT'S WELL OFF TARGET!


YOUR BALL, GOALIE!
INTO HERE . . .

. . . AND IT'S A GOAL!
WOW! HOW'D HE DO THAT?

Then —
OKAY — MY TURN. PICK A CARD, ANY CARD AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT IS!


THEY'RE ALL RED CARDS! YOU'RE ALL SENT OFF FOR CHEATING!
COO! JOLLY GOOD TRICK, BALL BOY!
WELL DONE!

But —
SIGH! PITY THEY FORGOT TO TAKE THEIR HATS WITH THEM!

BALL BOY

WHO ON EARTH IS THAT?
OUR STAR PLAYER — HE'S PICKED UP A FEW NIGGLING INJURIES THIS SEASON.

HE'S GOT BOTH LEGS IN PLASTER BUT HE'S STILL GOOD IN THE AIR.

Soon—
PHWEE!
THEY'VE GOT A FREE KICK!

STAND THERE!

And—
REBOUND!

And—
UP YOU GO!

WHUMP!

GREAT HEADER!

WAHEY! WE'VE WON!

JUST WHO IS YOUR STAR PLAYER?

IT'S ME! WOULDN'T DREAM OF PLAYING SUCH A ROUGH GAME WITHOUT PROTECTION!
CHUCKLE!
GASP! SOFTY WALTER!

BALL BOY

BRING HIM DOWN! KICK HIM!
PHEW! IT'S A ROUGH SOUNDING CROWD WATCHING TODAY!

GASP! IT'S THE STRETCHER BEARERS TRYING TO DRUM UP SOME BUSINESS!

OUCH!

STRETCHER!
YAHOO!

HEY! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
YES . . .

LET'S BRING SOMEONE DOWN!

GOT HIM!
EEK!

BAH!
PHEW! THANKS, SUBSTITUTE!

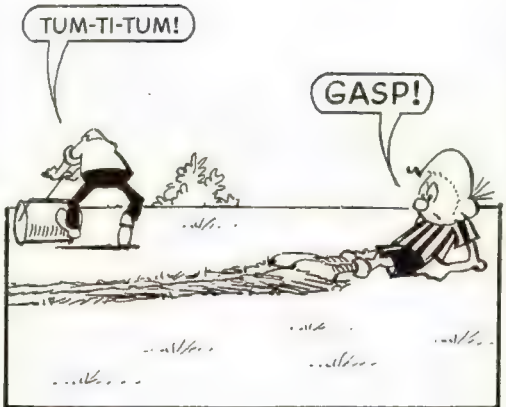
...BUT I STILL NEED THIS!

BALL BOY

AHA!

I'LL NEED MY LONG STUDS TODAY!

H-HEY!


TUM-TI-TUM!
GASP!

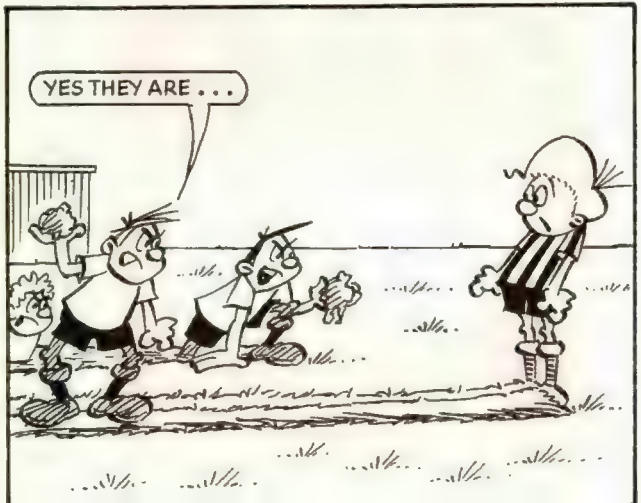
BAH! MY BOOTS ARE NO USE NOW!

And—
HUP! HUP!

NOW I CAN GET UP TO HIGH BALLS!

AND YOU LOT WILL HAVE TO SCRABBLE ABOUT IN THE MUD I LEFT BEHIND!
GRR!

But—
BETTER ROLL THAT TURF I PUT DOWN!
VERY SHORT-SIGHTED GROUNDSMAN


YES THEY ARE . . .

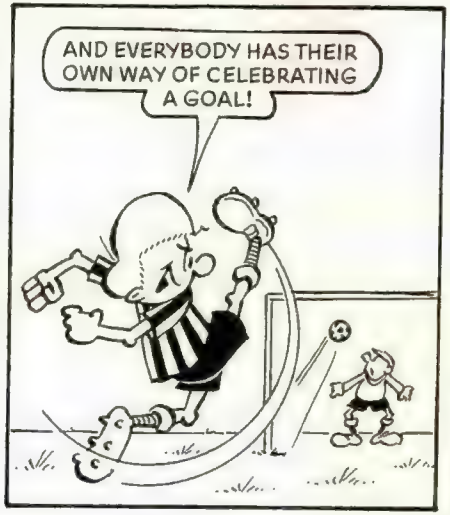
. . . IT MEANS YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY WHILE WE GET RID OF ALL THIS MUD!
WAAAH!

BALL BOY

EVERYBODY HAS A DIFFERENT WAY OF PLAYING FOOTBALL!

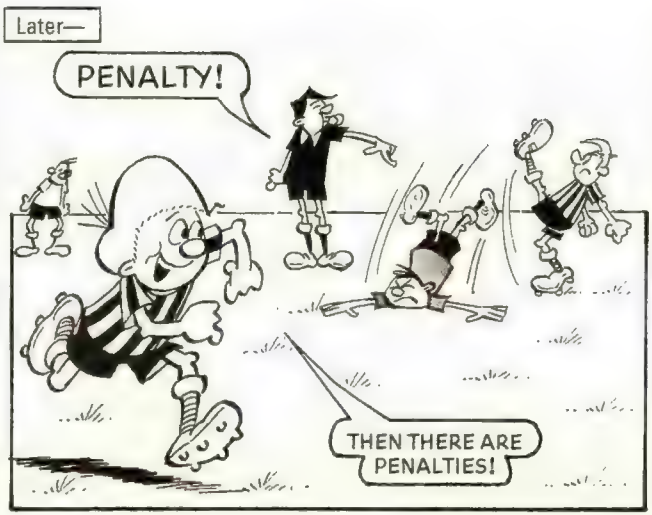
THROW-INS, FOR INSTANCE!
COO! HE'S WINDING UP FOR A HUGE THROW BY THE LOOKS OF THINGS!

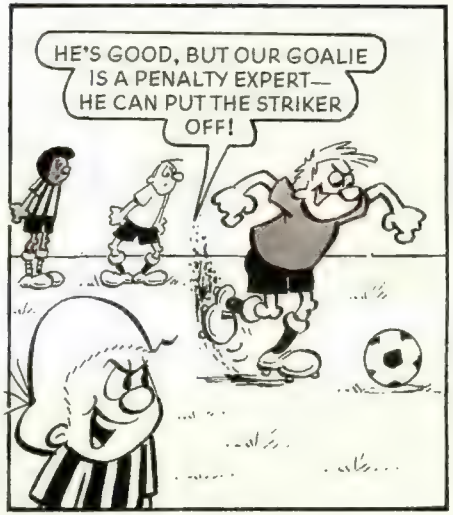
AAARGH!
PARP!
BOOM!
CHING!
SEE!


AND EVERYBODY HAS THEIR OWN WAY OF CELEBRATING A GOAL!

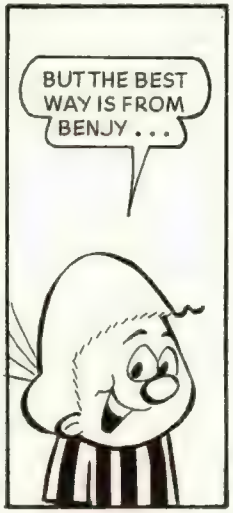
CONGRATULATIONS, BALL BOY!
THANKS, DIMMY!

HA! HA! HE'S WASTED SO MUCH ENERGY IN HIS BUILD-UP, HE'S TOO WEAK TO THROW THE BALL!
WHEEZE!


Later—
PENALTY!
THEN THERE ARE PENALTIES!


HE'S GOOD, BUT OUR GOALIE IS A PENALTY EXPERT— HE CAN PUT THE STRIKER OFF!

SLOBBER! BRILLIANT! MAGIC!
WAAH! HELP!

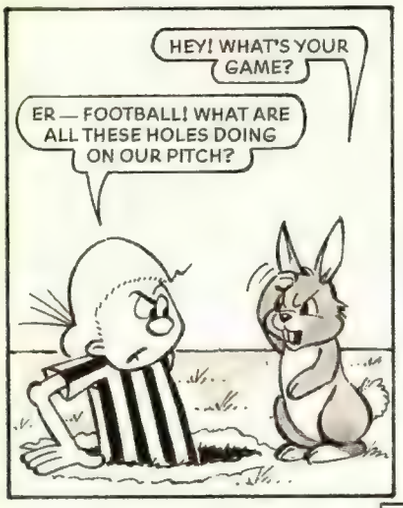

BUT THE BEST WAY IS FROM BENJY . . .

. . . OR FROM HIS DAD, I SHOULD SAY! HE OWNS A RESTAURANT! SLURP!
GREAT GOAL! NOW, WHAT'LL IT BE?

BALL BOY

AND BALL BOY MUST SCORE!

WHUMPH!
EH?

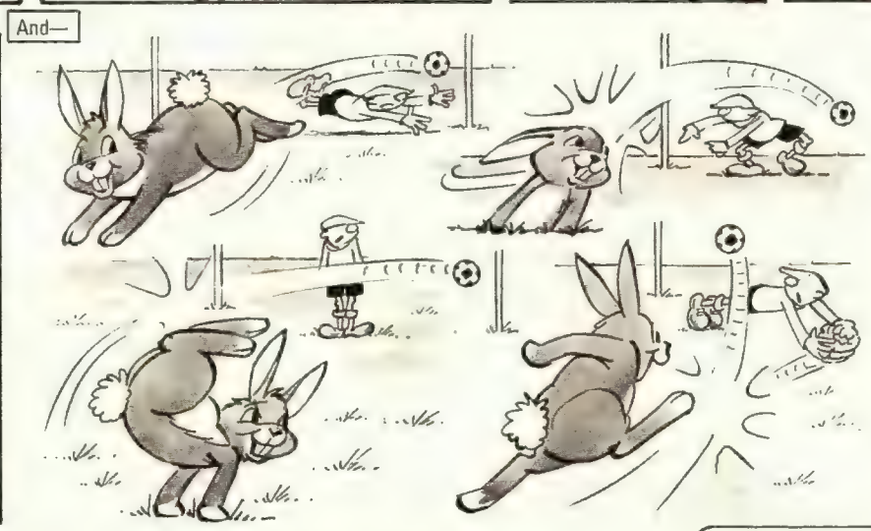

HEY! WHAT'S YOUR GAME?
ER — FOOTBALL! WHAT ARE ALL THESE HOLES DOING ON OUR PITCH?

BUT THIS PITCH IS OURS!
NO! OURS!

PLAY YOU FOR IT!
DONE!

So—
THIS WILL BE SO EASY!

But—
EH?


And—

WE'VE LOST OUR PITCH UNLESS . . .

HAVE YOU MET OUR NEW SIGNING?
NO.

MEET FRED THE FERRET!
WH-A-A-T?

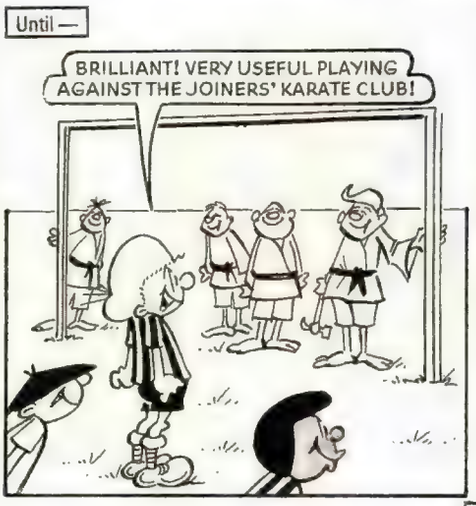
CHORTLE! THE BEST CHOCOLATE RABBIT SIGNING ON FEE I EVER SPENT!
COME HERE, YOU LOT! HEH-HEH-HEH!

BALL BOY

HMM! THE GOAL POSTS ARE VERY OLD!

LEAVE IT TO US!
SHOO — WAAH!

And —
BANG!
BANG!
COO!


Until —
BRILLIANT! VERY USEFUL PLAYING AGAINST THE JOINERS' KARATE CLUB!

TO YOU!
PHEW! THEY CAN'T HALF PLAY TOO!

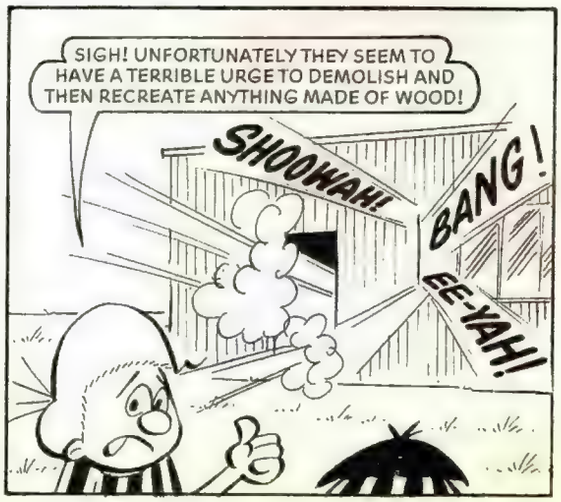
HAA-YEEM! GOAL!
WOW!

Soon —
GREAT CHANCE TO SCORE HERE!

But —
HY-AH! OOPS!
OH, NO! HE'S SLICED OUR ONLY BALL IN TWO!

HMM! WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

Suddenly —
YAHOO! BRILLIANT! LET'S GET STUCK IN!


SIGH! UNFORTUNATELY THEY SEEM TO HAVE A TERRIBLE URGE TO DEMOLISH AND THEN RECREATE ANYTHING MADE OF WOOD!
SHOOWAH!
BANG!
EE-YAH!

But —

WOW! TAKE BACK EVERYTHING I SAID!

BRILLIANT! THEY CONVERTED IT INTO FLUMES! YAHOO!

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED "CHANGING" ROOMS!

WHEE!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Okay! I know it's a bit early but you can make sure of a happy 1994 by ordering the highly popular Beano Calendar NOW and save disappointment later! Also available in the shops.

HOW TO ORDER

Just fill in the coupon and send it, with the correct remittance to Subscribers Dept, Beano Calendar, 80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL. Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd.

Please send copy/copies of The Beano Calendar to:-

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Remittance enclosed.....(Do not send cash)

I wish to pay by Visa/Mastercard/Switch; please charge to my account.

My card number is

Expiry Date /

If paying by SWITCH please include your Card Issue Number.

Signature.....

Name and address if different from above:

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

D. C. Thomson & Co., Ltd. Registered Address: Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (Registered in Scotland No. 5830)

BALL BOY

HMM! WE NEED NEW STRIPS!

So —
MAYBE A LOCAL SHOP WILL HELP US OUT!

I'D LOVE TO! SIMPER!

I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD WORK — HE WOULD HATE THEM GETTING DIRTY!

THIS IS HOPELESS!
WAIT! THERE'S ONE MORE SHOP LEFT!

So —
I'D BE DELIGHTED TO KNIT YOU STRIPS!

THOSE JERSEYS WOULD BE TOO HOT FOR US TO PLAY IN!

Later —
LET'S TRY THIS FASHION SHOP!
Style

And —
THE WEDDING HIRE FIRM SUPPLIED US WITH STRIPS . . .

. . . UNFORTUNATELY THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH TUXEDOS TO GO ROUND!
GRR! THIS IS EMBARRASSING!

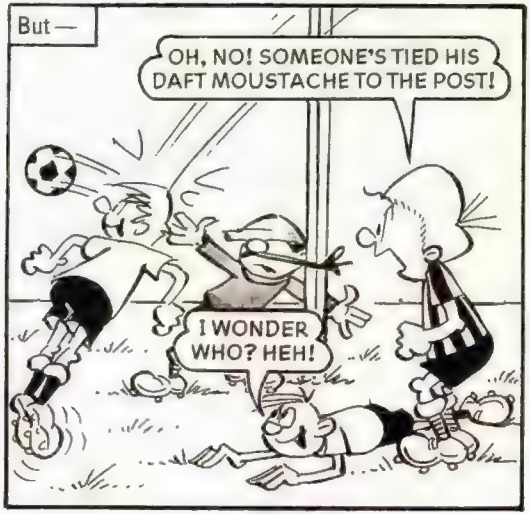
BALL BOY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GOALIE?

MY HERO, BRUCE GOBBLER, ALWAYS EATS A FISH SUPPER BEFORE HE PLAYS.
OH!

During the 'wa

YOURS, KEEPER!

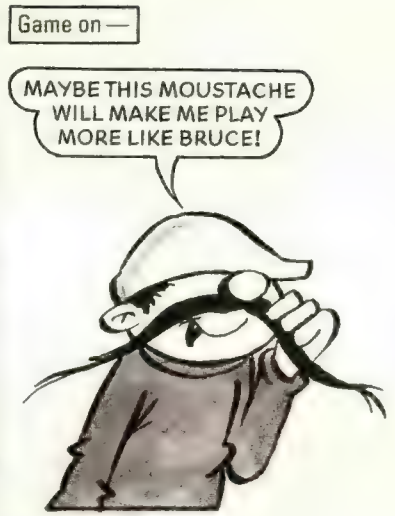

But —
OH, NO! SOMEONE'S TIED HIS DAFT MOUSTACHE TO THE POST!
I WONDER WHO? HEH!

GET OFF! WE'LL BRING ON A SUBSTITUTE!

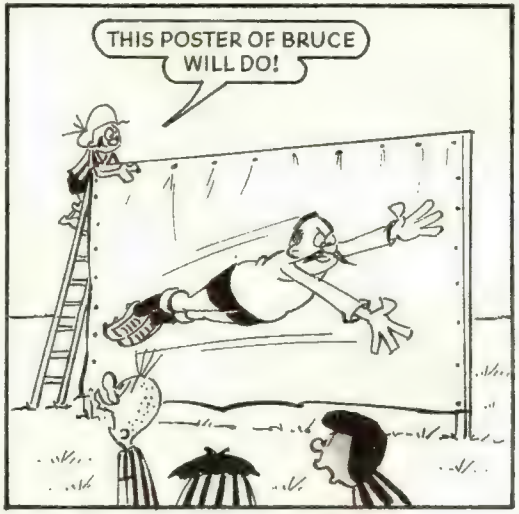
rm-up' —
I'LL GIVE THE GOALIE AN EARLY TOUCH.

But —
OOPS!

BAH! BUT BRUCE WASHES THE CHIP GREASE FROM HIS HANDS BEFORE HE PLAYS!
ERK!


Game on —
MAYBE THIS MOUSTACHE WILL MAKE ME PLAY MORE LIKE BRUCE!

BUT WE DON'T HAVE A SUBSTITUTE!
YES WE DO!

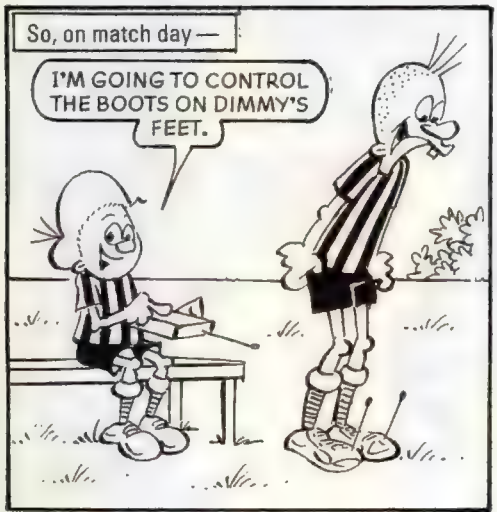

THIS POSTER OF BRUCE WILL DO!

But at full time —
HMPH! NO PRIZES FOR GUESSING HOW MANY BRUCE LET IN!

BALL BOY

WHAT HAVE YOU INVENTED THIS TIME, PROFESSOR?

REMOTE CONTROL FOOTBALL BOOTS!
COO!


So, on match day —
I'M GOING TO CONTROL THE BOOTS ON DIMMY'S FEET.

RIGHT FOOT VOLLEY!
OUCH!

PASS TO TEAM MATE!
OH, NO!

THEY CAN TACKLE. WATCH!

SEE!
HA! HA!
HEY!

THEY CAN DRIBBLE, TOO!
HELP! I'M DIZZY!

CLEAR THE BALL SAFELY UP THE FIELD!
WHA-A-AT? OWN GOAL!

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BALL BOY!
GRR! WHAT WENT WRONG?

MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT! DIMMY PUT THE BOOTS ON THE WRONG FEET!

BALL BOY
. . . SO WHEN THEIR RIGHT BACK SWITCHES PLAY, WE CLOSE DOWN SPACE QUICKLY . . .
WHAT'S OUR NEW COACH ON ABOUT?
I'VE A BETTER IDEA — PUT ON THESE SANDWICH BOARDS.
I'LL WRITE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BOARDS.
So, when the game begins —
AHA! THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO.
WATCH ME GO!
PASS TO RIGHT WING AND RUN INTO BOX
GOAL! IT WORKED!
NOW SCORE A BRILLIANT DIVING HEADER!
Half time —
WHAT A GREAT SCHEME.
Ball Boys' opponents have other ideas . . .
HEH-HEH! WE'LL FIX THEM FOR THE SECOND HALF.
PENALTY!
YES!
WHAT ON —
GIVE ME THE BALL
WHY DID YOU HANDLE THE BALL, BENJI?
GIVE
BECAUSE YOUR BOARD TOLD ME TO!
CATCH THE BALL AND GIVE AWAY A PENALTY
GIVE ME THE BALL

Specially for little girls . . .

Not actual size

This terrific

Twinkle Badge

FREE

in **Twinkle**

PLUS

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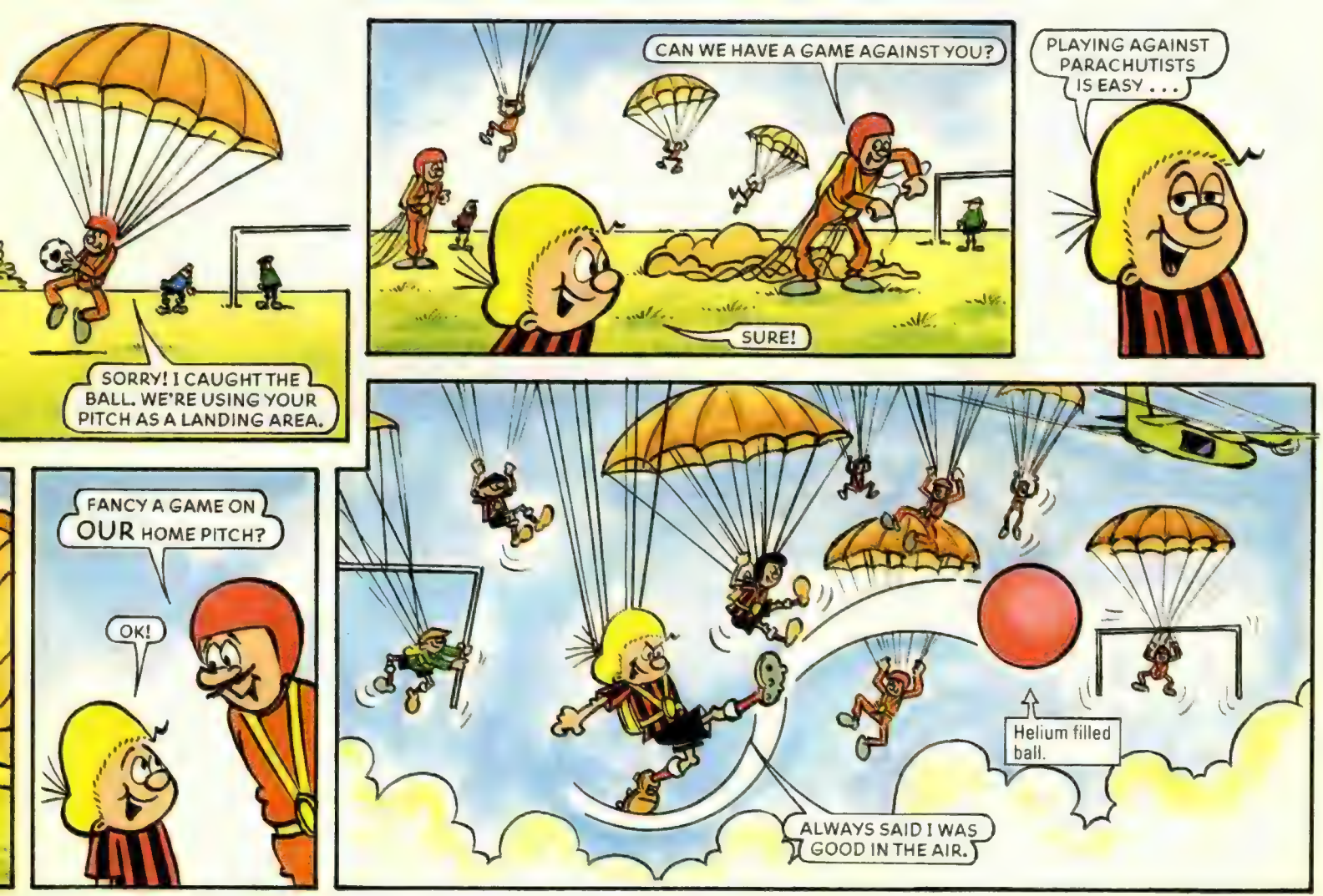
Issue dated Oct 16 On Sale Wed Oct 13 40p

BALL BOY
I'VE BEEN PRACTISING MY HIGH KICK-OUTS.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE BALL? — IT'S BEEN UP THERE FOR FIVE MINUTES!
. . . THEY CAN'T RUN VERY FAST DRAGGING THEIR PARACHUTES!
OOPS!
OOF! NOT EASY TO GET PAST, THOUGH!


SORRY! I CAUGHT THE BALL. WE'RE USING YOUR PITCH AS A LANDING AREA.
CAN WE HAVE A GAME AGAINST YOU?
SURE!
PLAYING AGAINST PARACHUTISTS IS EASY . . .
FANCY A GAME ON OUR HOME PITCH?
OK!
Helium filled ball.
ALWAYS SAID I WAS GOOD IN THE AIR.

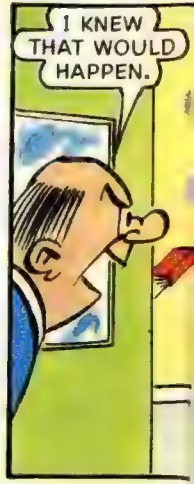
BALL BOY

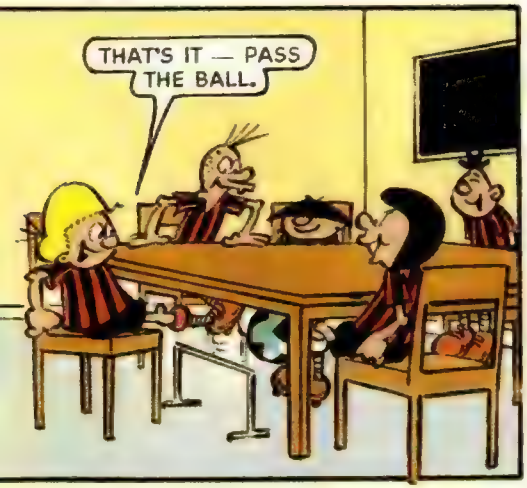
HUH! TIME FOR SCHOOL. GOT TO STOP PLAYING FOOTBALL.

Inside —
UNLESS WE PLAY UNDER THE TABLE.

THAT'S THE WAY!

MUCH BETTER!
BUT NOT VERY WELL HIDDEN. I WON'T STOP THEM, THOUGH.


I KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN.

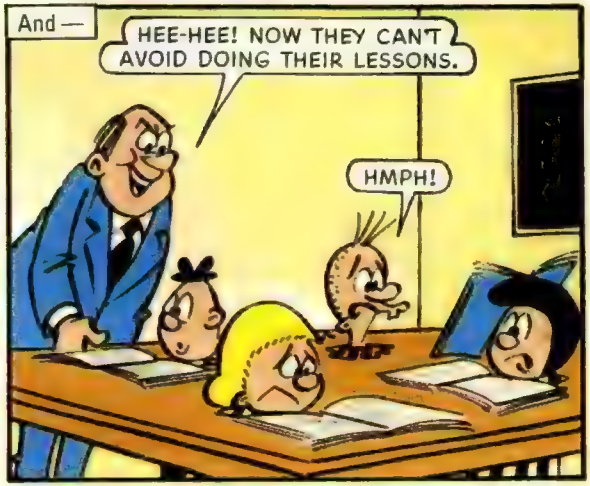

THAT'S IT — PASS THE BALL.

OOPS! CAN'T SEE THE BALL TO KICK IT.
OUCH!

IF THE TABLE WAS HIGHER WE COULD SEE UNDER IT.
GOOD THINKING, BENJY!

So —
SUCH HARD WORKING PUPILS.

CRASH!


And —
HEE-HEE! NOW THEY CAN'T AVOID DOING THEIR LESSONS.
HMPH!

BALL BOY

IT'S TIME WE CHANGED OUR STRIP — ALL THE CLUBS ARE DOING IT!
SPORTS WEAR

So —
THIS ONE'S GREAT AS CAMOUFLAGE! THE OTHER TEAM WON'T KNOW WHO'S TACKLING THEM!

Next—
HOW MUCH DO THEY COST?
ONLY £200 FOR THE TEAM!

SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FOR 37 PENCE AND A HALF-SUCKED WINE GUM?
OUT!

So, later —
THIS OLD WALLPAPER WILL DO!

YES! THIS IS A GREAT IDEA!

But —

HMM! SOUNDS DANGEROUS! WE MIGHT GET MOWED!

Next —

THIS MULTI-COLOURED STRIP IS VERY POPULAR!

GIBBER! THAT'S SIXTY NINE TIMES I'VE WASHED THESE!

MUM WOULD GO CRAZY TRYING TO WASH THE 'STAINS' OFF THEM!

So —

THESE STRIPS LOOK GREAT!

But —

OH, NO! THIS IS READY PASTED PAPER!

I THINK WE SHOULD JUST STICK TO OUR OLD STRIP!

SCRAPE

SCRAPE

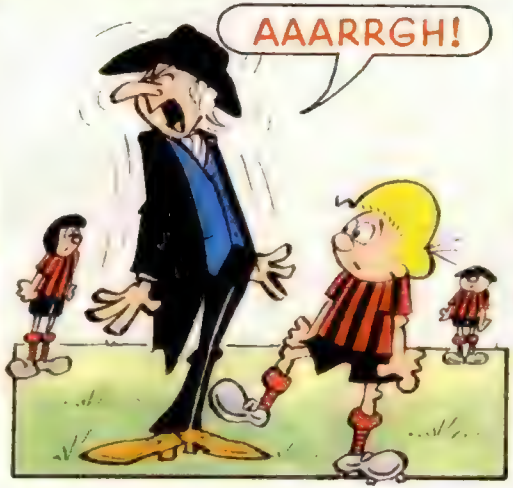
SCRAPE

BALL BOY

TACKLE TIME!

WAAAAH!

I SAY! ME NEXT, OLD BOY!
OKAY!


AAARRGH!

OH, ME! OH, MY! IS THIS REALLY THE END? THE FINAL CURTAIN! ALAS! ALACK!
WILL

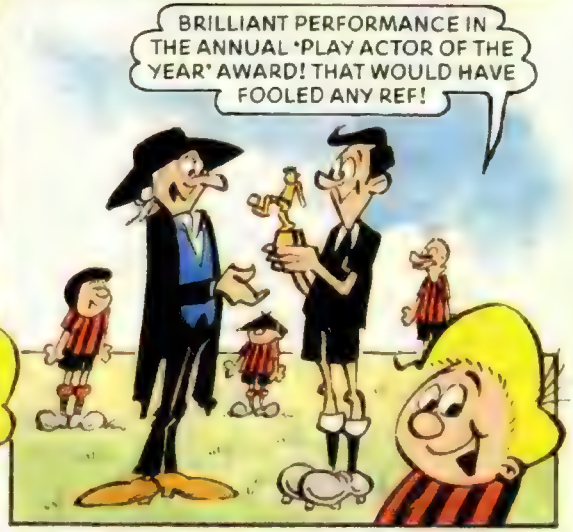
SCREAM! AAARGH! MUMMY!
HMM! NOT BAD!

Next —
OOOF!

THAT'S VERY GOOD!

COO!

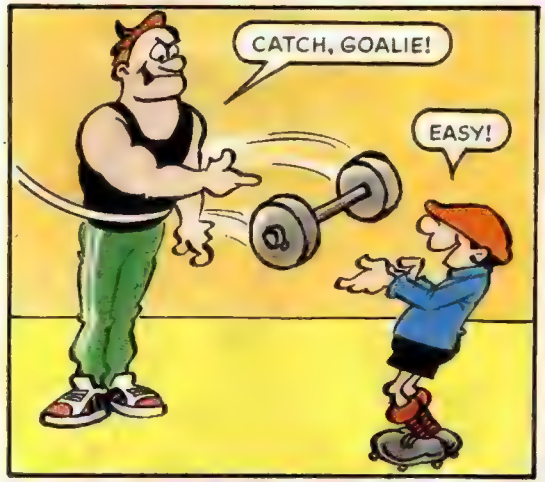
BRAVO! MORE! MORE!

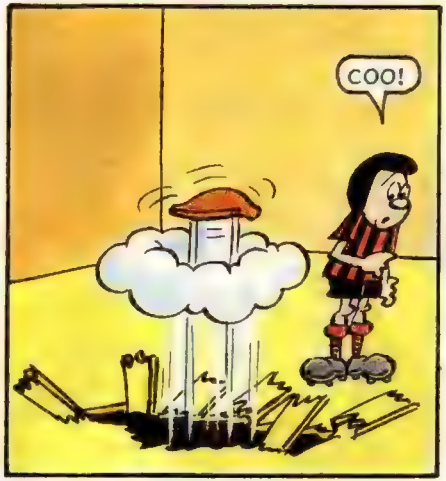

BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE IN THE ANNUAL 'PLAY ACTOR OF THE YEAR' AWARD! THAT WOULD HAVE FOOLED ANY REF!

BALL BOY

GASP! THRASHED 18-0! WE'VE GOT TO GET FIT!
EASY-PEASY!

So —
AND THIS IS THE PLACE FOR IT!
WAHEY


CATCH, GOALIE!
EASY!

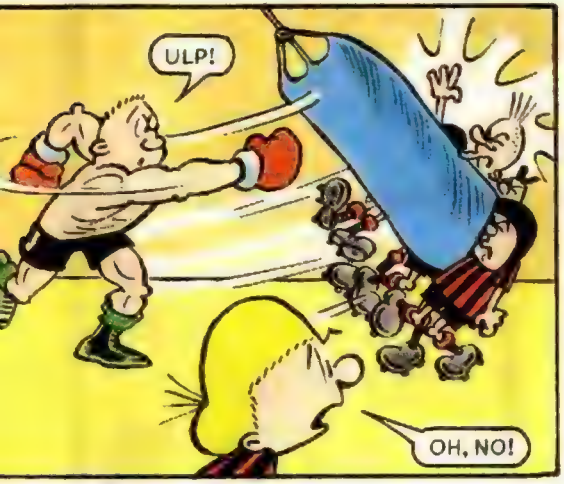

COO!

SHOW US HOW TO USE THE PUNCHBAG!
OKAY!

I BET THAT HURT!
OUCH!
CRUNCH!

NOT VERY FAST, IS IT? I'LL SPEED IT UP FOR YOU!
DON'T!

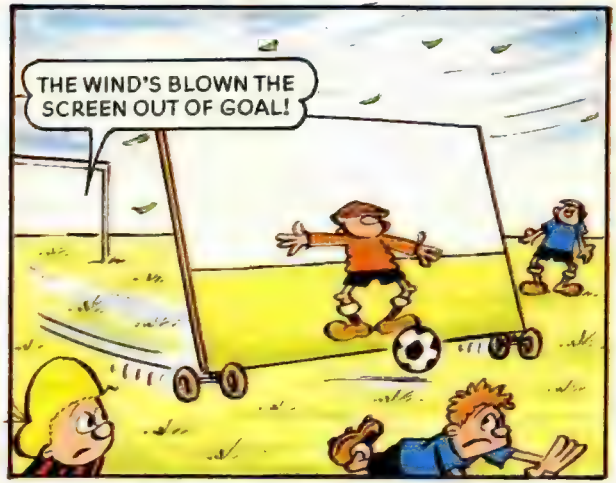
HA! HA! HA!
WHUMP!


ULP!
OH, NO!

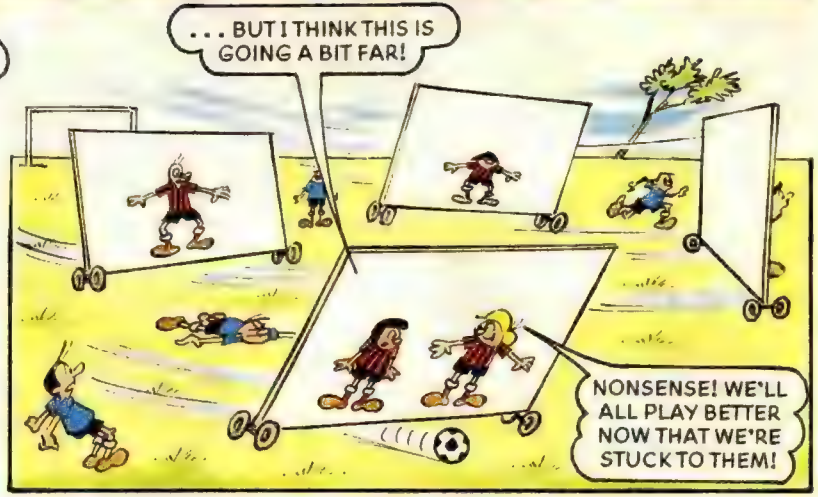
YOU SEEM A LOT FITTER NOW!
READER

I'VE GOT TO BE — OR ELSE IF THEY WERE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON ME . . .
GRR!
FUME!

BALL BOY



What do you call a laughing footballer?



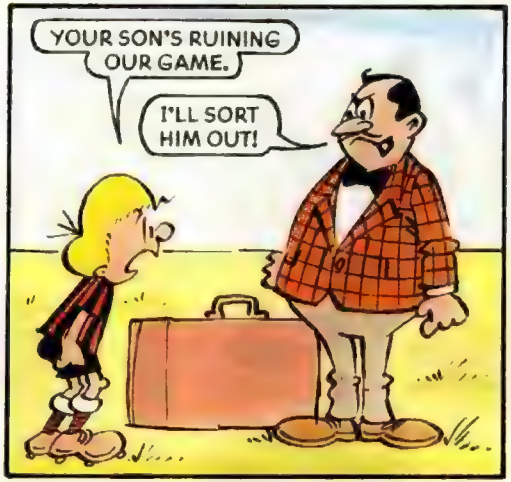
— Ryan GIGGLES!

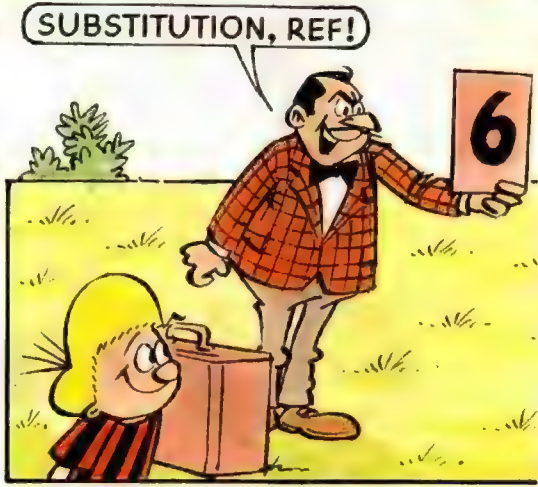
BALL BOY

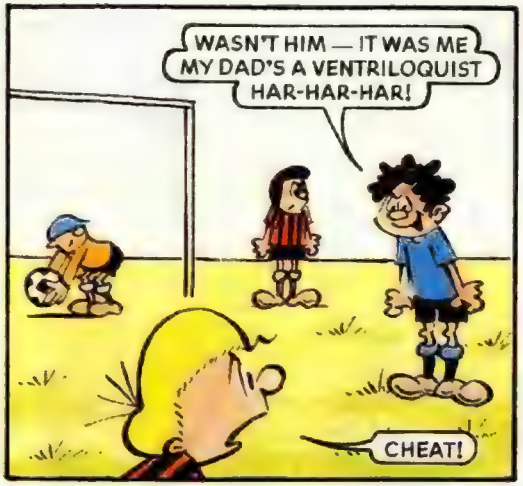
LEAVE IT!

WHY DID YOU SAY 'LEAVE IT!', GOALIE?

TITTER! IT WASN'T BALL BOY WHO SAID THAT — IT WAS ME THROWING MY VOICE.


YOUR SON'S RUINING OUR GAME.
I'LL SORT HIM OUT!


SUBSTITUTION, REF!
6


WASN'T HIM — IT WAS ME MY DAD'S A VENTRILOQUIST HAR-HAR-HAR!
CHEAT!

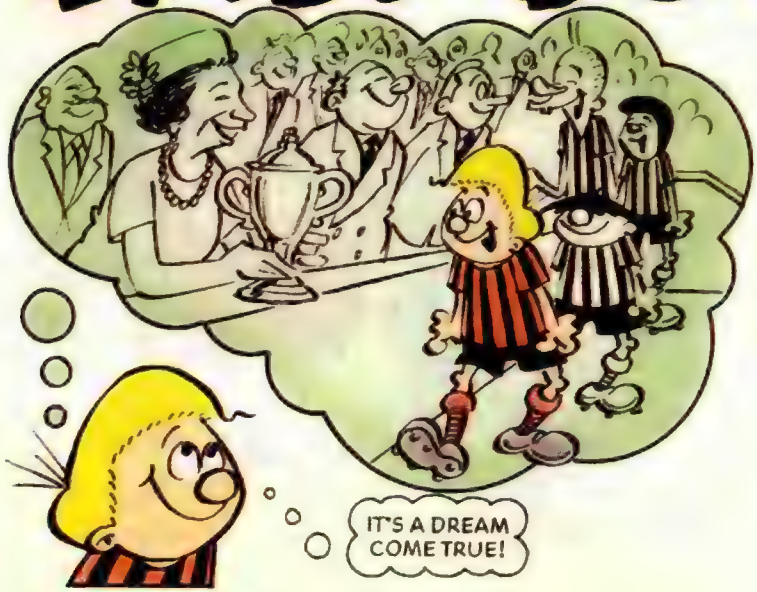
Soon —
OOFYAH!

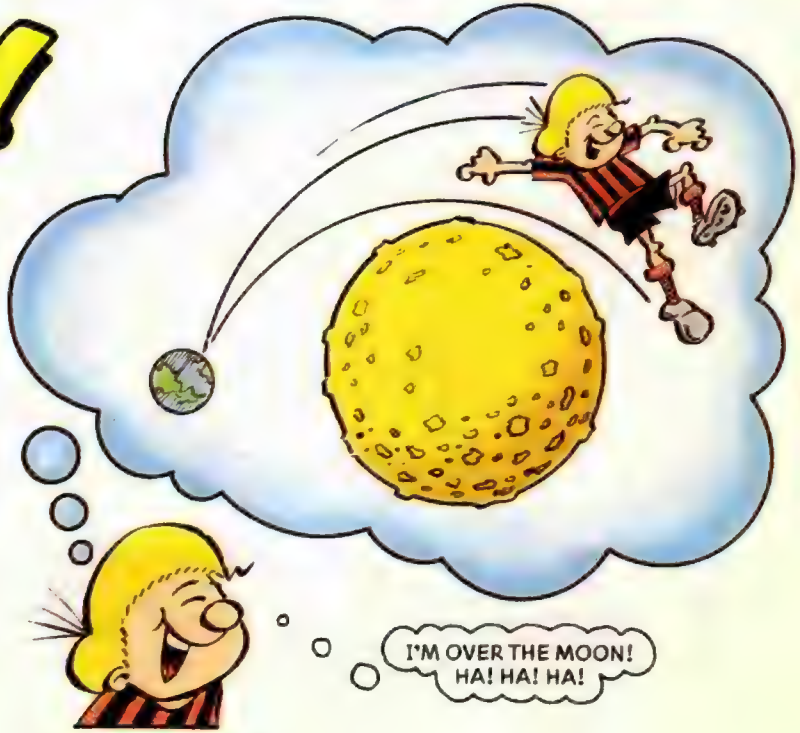
THAT WAS A FOUL, YOU BLIND BUFFOON, REFEREE!
EH?

WELL, THAT'S TAUGHT HIM A LESSON . . .
6

. . . MIND YOU, THE SUBSTITUTE'S SOME PLAYER!

BALL BOY

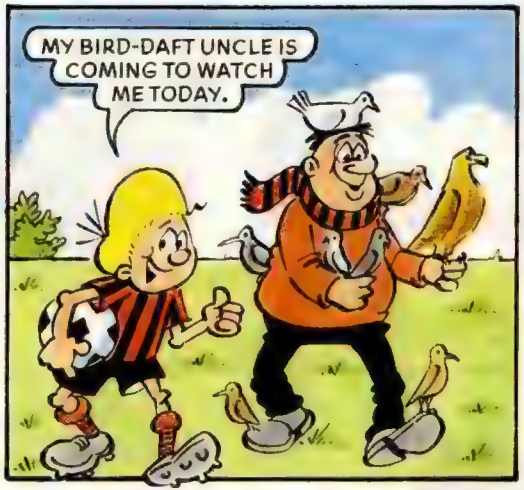




THIS IS INDEED A GREAT HONOUR, YOUR MAJESTY!

REALLY, BALL BOY! CAN'T YOU TAKE AND DRY A CUP WITHOUT ALL THIS NONSENSE?
POP!
SIGH!

BALL BOY


MY BIRD-DAFT UNCLE IS COMING TO WATCH ME TODAY.

SUPPORTING IS EASY — MY BIRDS WAVE MY SCARF FOR ME!

WE'LL SOON GET OUR OWN BACK FOR THAT DODGY GOAL!

LUCKY I BROUGHT MY WOODPECKERS!

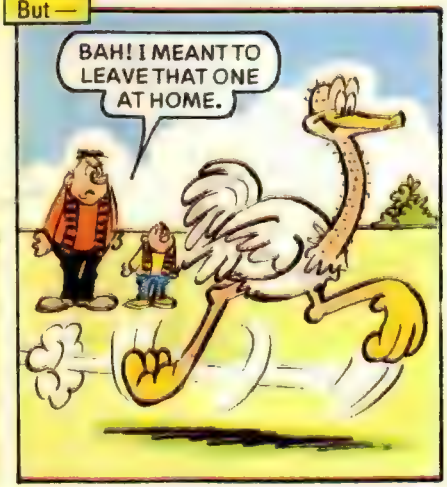
UNLUCKY! YOUR SHOT WENT OVER THE BAR. HA-HA!

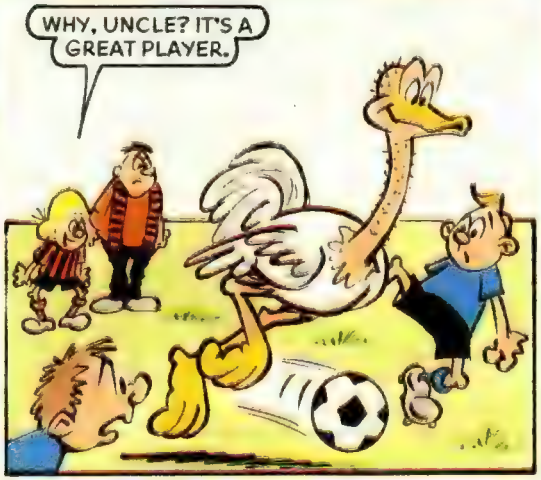
WHICH GIVES ME TIME TO HELP BALL BOY!

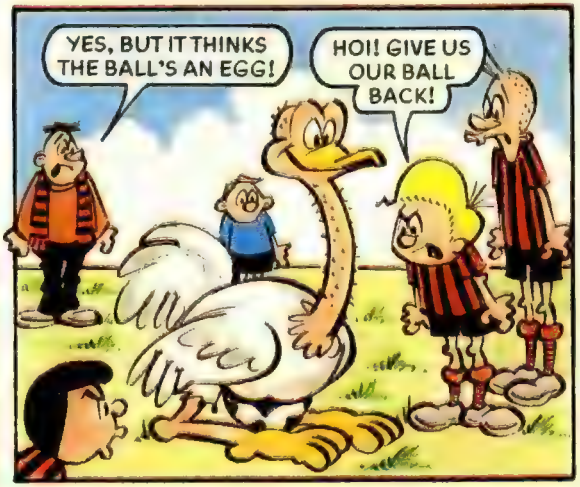
EH?

DROP!

But —


BAH! I MEANT TO LEAVE THAT ONE AT HOME.


WHY, UNCLE? IT'S A GREAT PLAYER.


YES, BUT IT THINKS THE BALL'S AN EGG!
HOI! GIVE US OUR BALL BACK!

BALL BOY

THE PITCH IS SNOW-BOUND. NO GAME FOR US TODAY.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!

HUP!
LEAP

WAHEY! IT'S WORKING! THE SNOWBALL IS CLEARING THE PITCH!

THE PITCH IS PLAYABLE NOW . . .

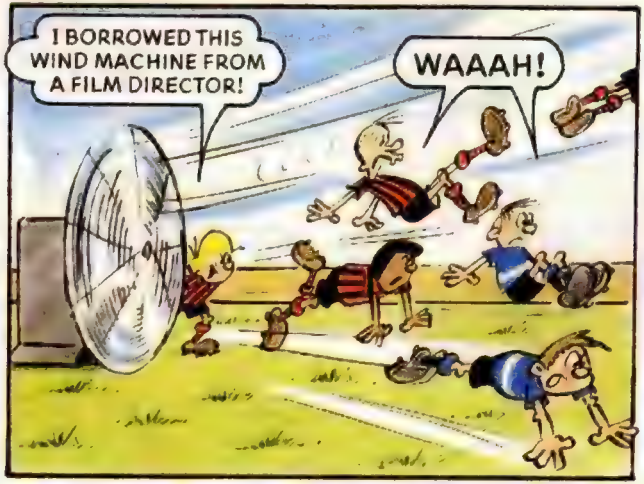
. . . AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT NEW GOALIE TOO!

BALL BOY

WE'VE GOT A NEW ALL-WEATHER PITCH!

GIANT SUN LAMP
SO WE'RE GOING TO TEST IT OUT UNDER ALL KINDS OF WEATHER.

TIME FOR MY NEXT TRICK!

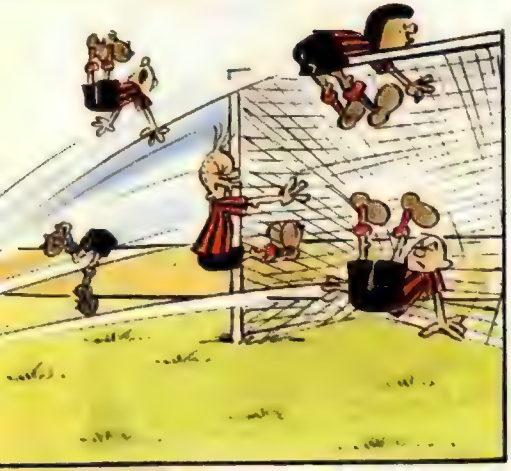

I BORROWED THIS WIND MACHINE FROM A FILM DIRECTOR!
WAAAH!

HA-HA-HA!

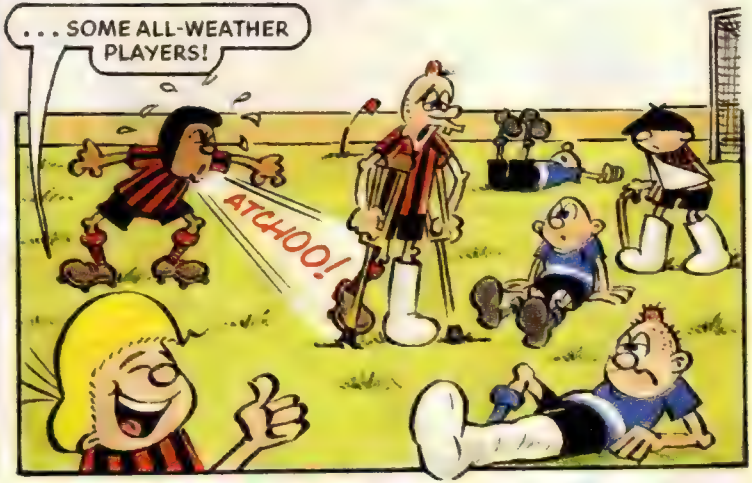
And —
GASP! IT'S FAR TOO HOT!

Then —
YOU WANT UM WATER?
AH! YOU'VE ARRIVED, CHIEF!

WAHOOO!
WAAHEYOO!
BRR! NOW IT'S COLD AND RAINY!
Rain Dance

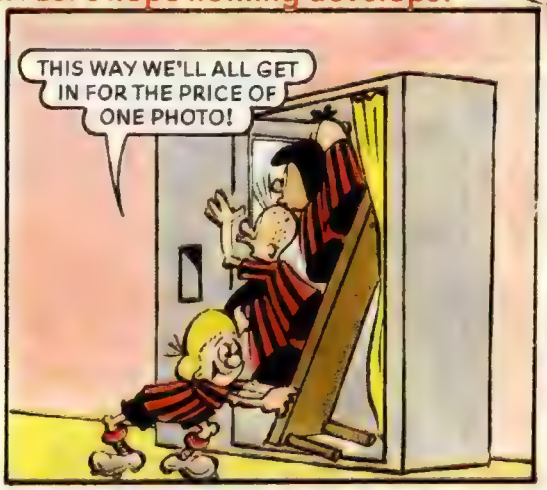


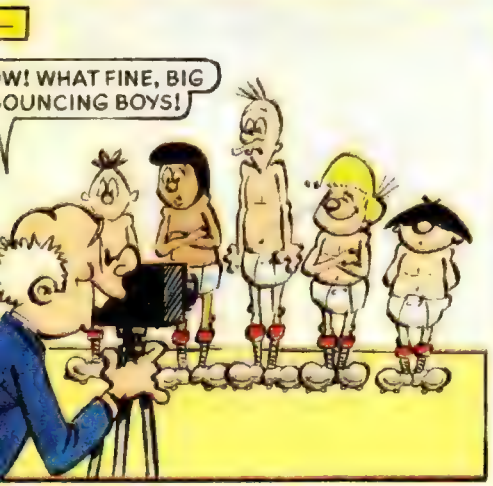
THE PITCH IS STILL PERFECT — NOW ALL I NEED ARE . . .


. . . SOME ALL-WEATHER PLAYERS!
ATCHOO!

Hey, Ball Boy — Dimmy's just swallowed a camera!

Wow! Let's hope nothing develops!





BALL BOY

I WANT TO BE GOALIE!
LET ME PLAY IN ATTACK!

So —
HOLD IT! HOLD IT! STOP THE SQUABBLING! WE NEED A MANAGER!

HMM! JUST THREE APPLICANTS FOR THE JOB!

And —
WH-WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

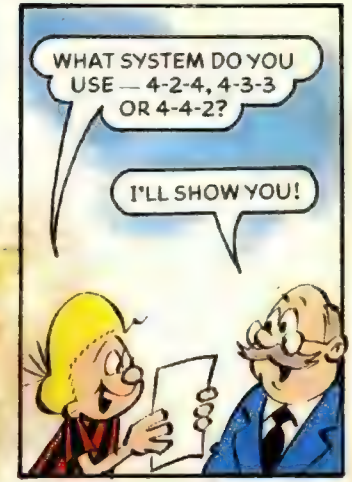
I PUT THIS ON!
SPECIAL OFFER 30P EACH

HA-HA! THAT'S MR LOW, THE OLD MANAGER OF THE LOCAL SUPERMARKET!

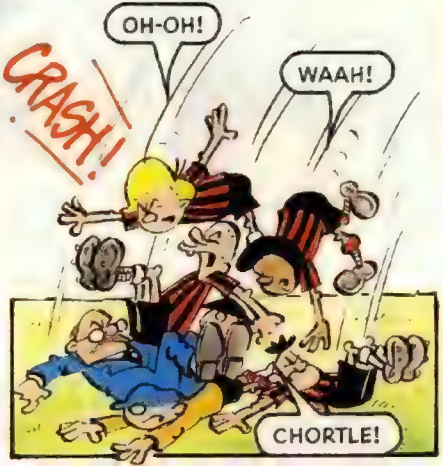
MANAGER WANTED
IT'S GRAHAM TAYLOR AND ANDY ROXBURGH!

SORRY, YOU TWO — YOU'RE MY SECOND AND THIRD CHOICES.

So —
HAVE YOU BEEN A MANAGER BEFORE?
YES! I'VE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE!


WHAT SYSTEM DO YOU USE — 4-2-4, 4-3-3 OR 4-4-2?
I'LL SHOW YOU!

WHAT? HE'S STACKED US UP LIKE TINS OF BEANS!
SPECIAL OFFER 3 UP EACH

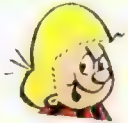

CRASH!
OH-OH!
WAAH!
CHORTLE!

LET'S GET BACK TO SQUABBLING, TEAM!
DAMAGED GOODS 10P OFF

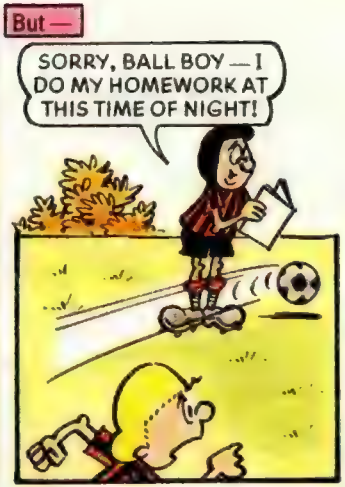
What's purple and cries "HELP!"?

A damson in distress!

BALL BOY



Why did the referee wear six watches?



So he could have extra time!

BALL BOY

SIGH! WE'VE GOT TO TRY AND FILL THE TROPHY CABINET!

OUR TEAM LACKS A BIT OF CONTINENTAL FLAIR LIKE A CANTONA OR A BAGGIO!

So —
HE'S TALKING TO AN AGENT NOW!

Semi-final —
ANOTHER CRACKER!

Final —
THAT'S THE WINNER!

CONGRATULATIONS!
TA!

GREAT!

And —
MEET OUR GREEK MAESTRO STAVROS.
HELLO, PEEPS!

Sixth round cup-tie —
WHAT A GOAL!

THIS WILL LOOK GREAT IN THE TROPHY CABINET!

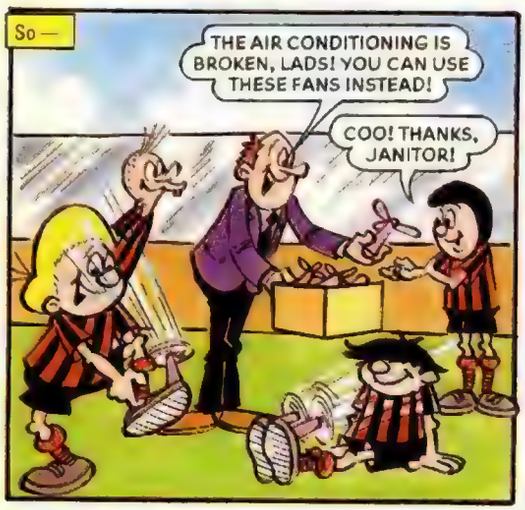
EXCUSE PLEASE. IN MY COUNTRY WE HAVE ZE TRADITION.
EH?

YOU GOT HIM FROM A GREEK RESTAURANT, DIDN'T YOU?
ER . . .
HOORAH!

BALL BOY

Ball Boy's team are playing indoor football —
GASP! PHEW!

UNNGH! IT'S VERY WARM PLAYING INDOORS!

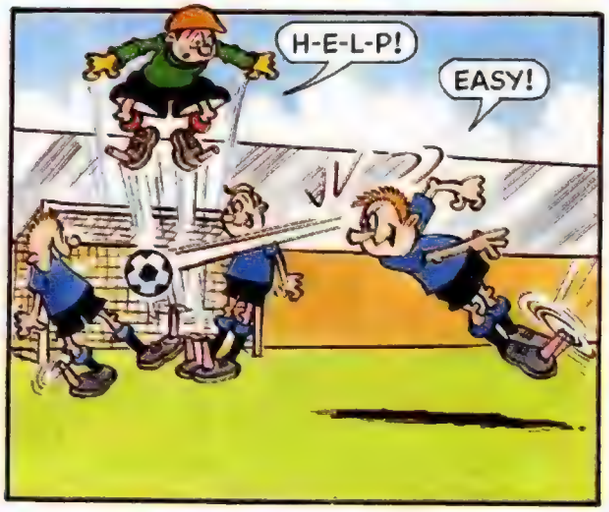

So —
THE AIR CONDITIONING IS BROKEN, LADS! YOU CAN USE THESE FANS INSTEAD!
COO! THANKS, JANITOR!

MMM! MUCH BETTER WITH A NICE BREEZE!

I'LL VOLLEY THIS FOR A GREAT GOAL!

But —
AW! THE FANS ARE KEEPING THE BALL UP IN THE AIR ALL THE TIME!

And —
WE'LL GET RID OF BALL BOY'S GOALIE! HEH!

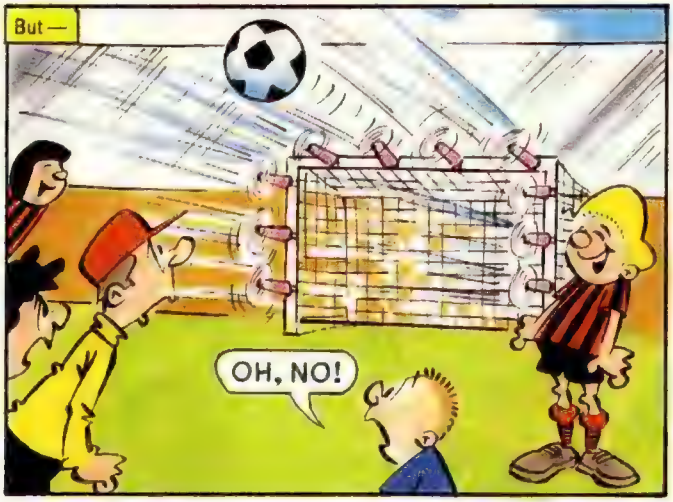

H-E-L-P!
EASY!

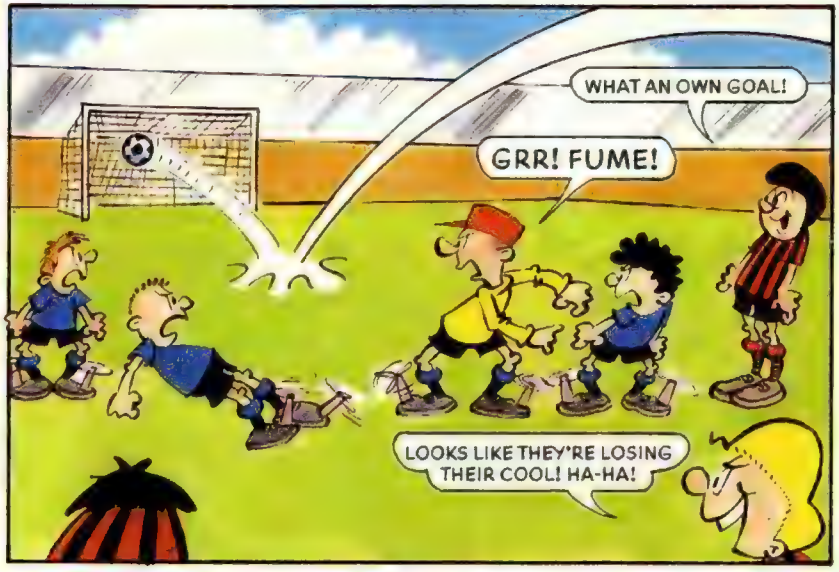
WAY-HEY!

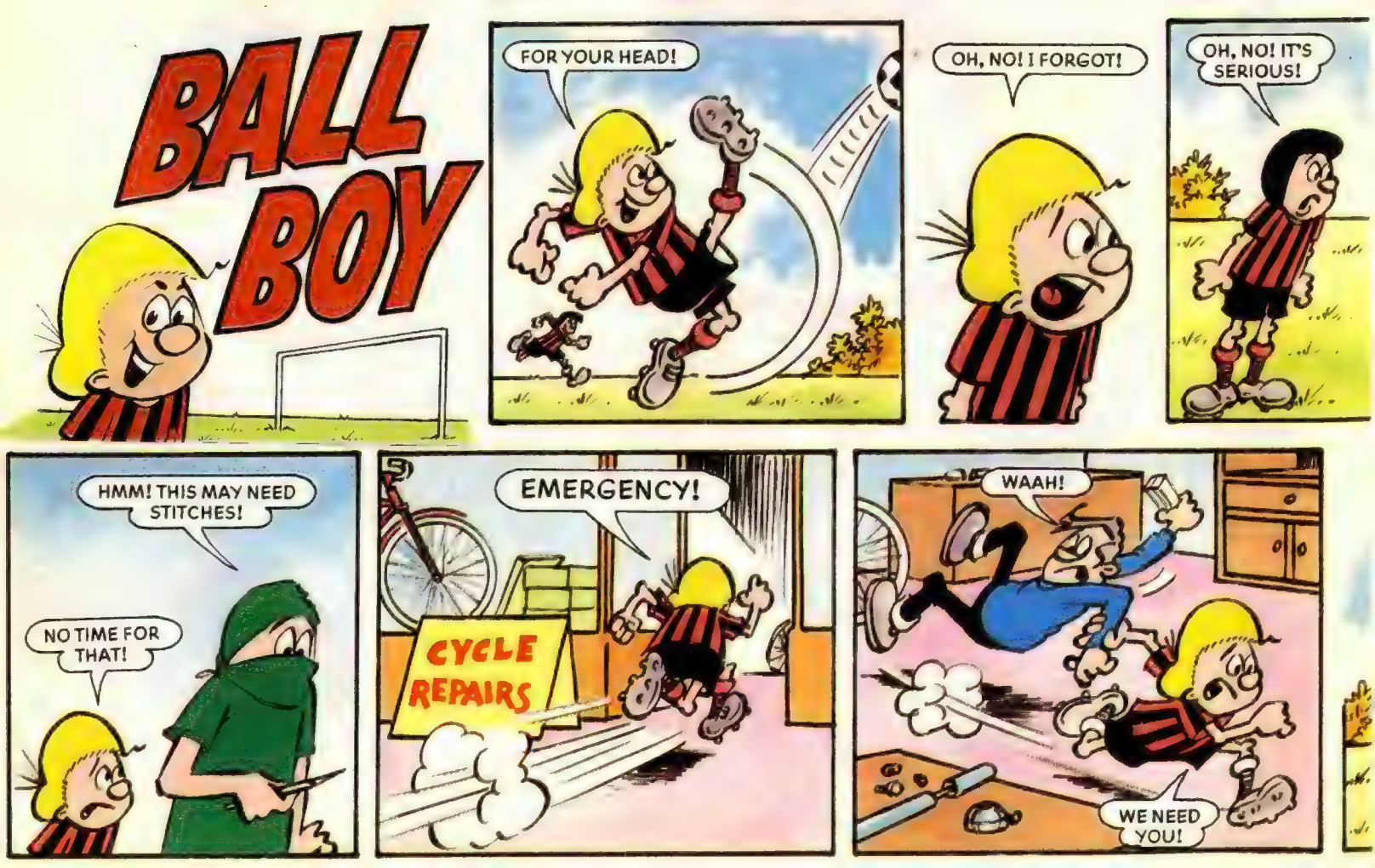
MOAN! GROAN!
HAR-HAR!
NOW WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE! WE DON'T HAVE A GOALIE!
HMM.

Soon —
LET'S FINISH THIS LOT OFF WITH ANOTHER GOAL, LADS!

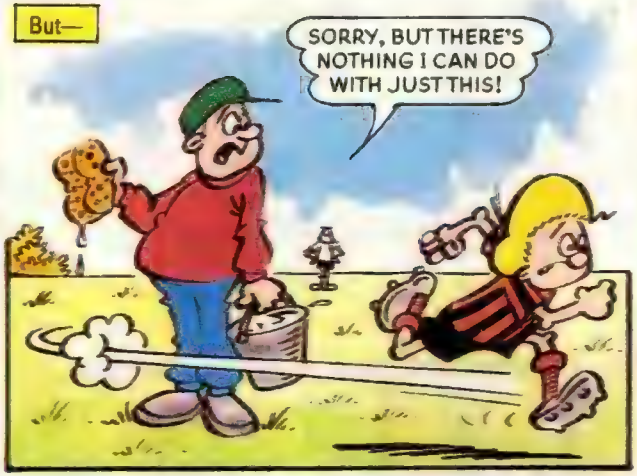
LET ME SCORE!
HA! HA! OKAY, GOALIE!


But —
OH, NO!


WHAT AN OWN GOAL!
GRR! FUME!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE LOSING THEIR COOL! HA-HA!


BALL BOY
FOR YOUR HEAD!
OH, NO! I FORGOT!
OH, NO! IT'S SERIOUS!
HMM! THIS MAY NEED STITCHES!
NO TIME FOR THAT!
EMERGENCY!
CYCLE REPAIRS
WAAH!
WE NEED YOU!

CAN'T PLAY ON!
TRAINER!


But—
SORRY, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO WITH JUST THIS!

So—
HOI!
HOI!

And—
NO PROBS! I CAN FIX THAT!
PHEW! GO FOR IT!

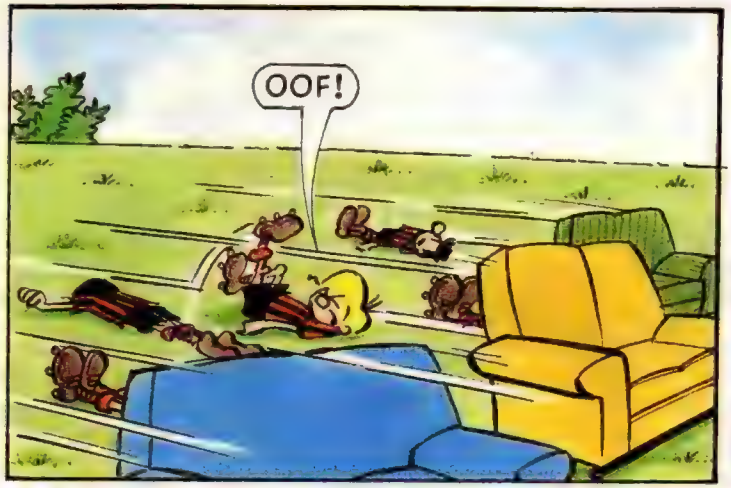
IT WAS OUR BALL THAT WAS "INJURED". I'D FORGOTTEN WHO OUR STRIKER WAS TODAY.

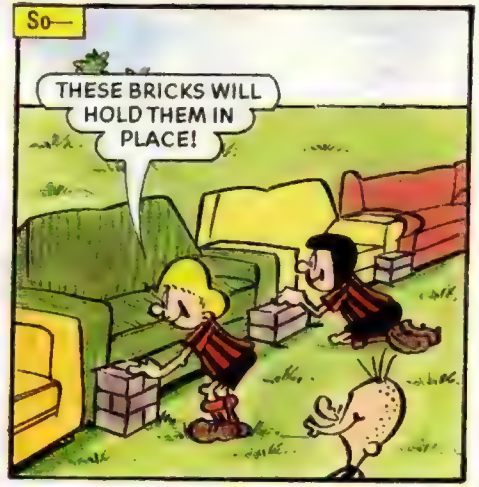
NEXT TIME, VOLLEY IT, SPIKE!
YEAH! TOO MUCH GEL IN MY HAIR TO HEAD IT!

BALL BOY

WOW! WHAT A FANTASTIC, ALL-SEATER STADIUM!
MUDCHESTER ECHO

So—
WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN ALL-SEATER
WE'VE BORROWED OUR LIVING-ROO
SETTEES!


OOF!


So—
THESE BRICKS WILL HOLD THEM IN PLACE!

NOW FOR A RUN DOWN THE WING!

And—
IT LOOKS GREAT, BALL BOY!
HMM!
ONLY ONE PROBLEM . . .
. . . THIS PITCH IS ON A SLOPE! WAAH!
But—
EH?
HMM! I FORGOT THAT ALL OUR FAMILIES ARE COUCH POTATOES!

Why did coach flood the pitch?

He wanted to bring on the sub!

BALL BOY
GREAT RESULT FOR US LAST NIGHT, COACH — ELEVEN NIL!
HMPH! SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOUBLE! EXTRA TRAINING FOR YOU LOT!
WH-WHERE AM I?
PAH! USELESS! EVERYONE GET CHANGED!
YOU LAZY LOT ARE HOPELESS!
OH, COACH!
WHAT?

o —
NNGH! TWO . . . THREE . . . FOUR . . .

PHEW! THIS IS HARD TRAINING FROM COACH!
GRUNT! YEAH! HE'S IN A FOUL MOOD!
COME ON! WORK HARDER!

And —
WAAH! I'M GOING CROSS-EYED TRYING TO LOOK AT BOTH BALLS!
FASTER! DIMMY! FASTER!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
AW . . .

SPLAT!
GLUB!

I THOUGHT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN! SORRY!
THAT WAS FOR TAKING IT OUT ON US AND GIVING US EXTRA TRAINING!

BALL BOY

CONTRACT TERMS

HEY! OUR MAIN RIVALS, CITY, WANT TO BUY ME!
EH?

B-BUT YOU CAN'T LEAVE US!

At City's training ground —
CITY
RIGHT! TELL US YOUR OLD TEAM'S SECRETS.
WELL, BENJY'S GOT REALLY SMELLY FEET!

NO! LIKE WHAT ARE THEIR TACTICS?
THEY DON'T HAVE ANY! WHY?

BECAUSE WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST THEM ON SATURDAY!
OH, NO!

THIS IS A NIGHTMARE! WISH I'D NEVER SIGNED NOW.

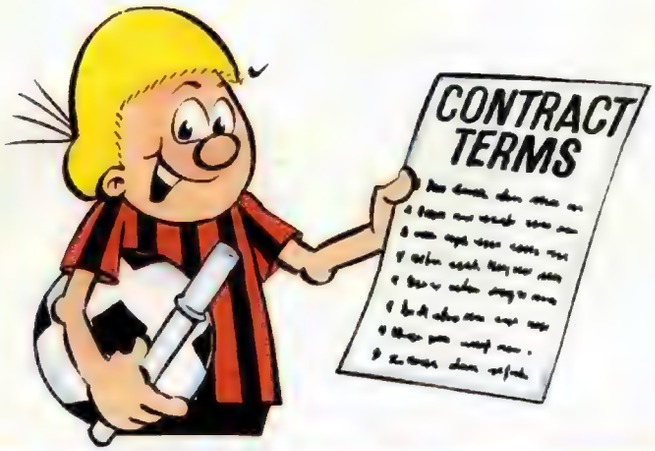
Then —
TO ME, BALL BOY!
I'LL PASS IT BACK TO THE GOALIE — JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE!

GRR! I THINK YOU MEANT THAT.
WHUMP!

WHY? BECAUSE I'M THE BEST PLAYER?
NO, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOT A BIKE PUMP TO STOP THE BALL FROM GOING FLAT!
THEY'VE OFFERED ME A YEAR'S FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BEANO IF I SIGN. CAN'T MISS A CHANCE LIKE THAT.
So, on Saturday —
GREAT PASS!
WAAAH!
TRAITOR!
Later —
I'LL BEAT DIMMY TO THIS HIGH BALL!
SCREAM!
GOT YOU!
Full time —
RR! BEATEN BY THAT OT BECAUSE OF YOU. YOU'RE FIRED!
GREAT — ER — I MEAN — OH, NO!
So —
I'M FINISHED WITH THEM, LADS. I'M READY TO COME BACK.
But —
WE DON'T NEED YOU!
WE SIGNED SOMEBODY ELSE WHEN YOU LEFT.
WHA-A-AT?
WHO IS THEIR NEW SIGNING? WHAT'S NEXT FOR BALL BOY? FIND OUT NEXT WEEK!

BALL BOY

Last week, Ball Boy left to join another team. When things didn't work out, he tried to rejoin his old team but they had signed a replacement . . .



HA! HA! HE'S ALSO A GREAT LAUGH!
CLUCK! CLUCK!
AND HE'S A GREAT PAL!
HERE, LADS! HAVE SOME CHOCS.
SNIFF! NOW I'LL NEVER GET BACK WITH MY OLD TEAM.
WE'VE WON THE CUP!
WELL DONE!
. . . SO I'LL HANDLE THE BALL IN THE BOX IN THE LAST MINUTE AND YOU CAN SCORE THE PENALTY.
THAT'S YOUR VOICE!
WELCOME BACK, BALL BOY!
YOU'LL NEED MY BIKE PUMP!
WHY? IS THE MATCH BALL SOFT?
SPORTS NEWS
CUP CHEATS BANNED
BALL BOY BACK WITH TEAM
NO, I LET DOWN ALL YOUR TYRES AFTER YOU SIGNED THAT OTHER PLAYER! HA-HA!
GRR! COME HERE!

BALL BOY

WE'RE DOING A SPONSORED FOOTBALL JUGGLE!

So —
WE'VE GOT TO JUGGLE THE BALL TO EACH OTHER WITHOUT LETTING IT HIT THE GROUND.
BOOT

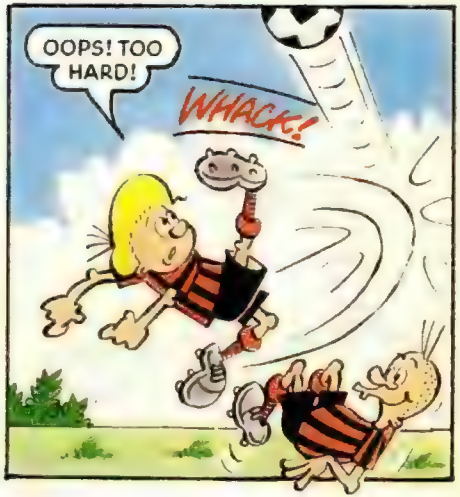
CRACK
GOT IT!

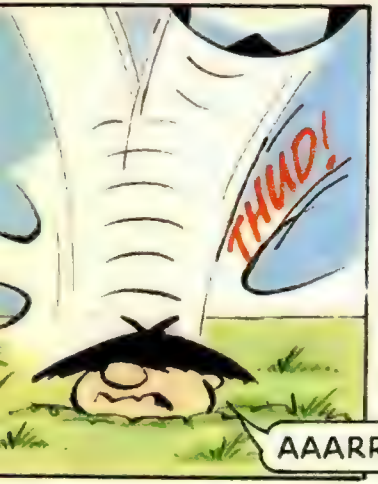
PITY IT WAS BESIDE A THORNY BUSH!
WAAAH!
THUMP

HEAD IT, TITCH!

MIND YOUR LACE, DIMMY — TOO LATE!
AARGH!
BOP

WELL DONE, DIMMY!
WHEEZE! QUICK!
BLOW


OOPS! TOO HARD!
WHACK!


THUD!
AAARRGGH!

Then —
WELL DONE, LADS! YOU'VE MANAGED TO RAISE LOTS OF MONEY.
WHAT CHARITY IS THE MONEY GOING TO?

THE FOOTBALL INJURIES CLINIC!
AAARRGH!
SWOON

BALL BOY

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THE PITCH?
THE COUNCIL ARE BUILDING A ROAD THROUGH IT!

IT'S NOT OPEN YET, SO YOU CAN STILL PLAY IF YOU WANT!
GREAT!

But —
NAME AND ADDRESS — YOU'RE BOOKED!
WH-WHAT FOR?

YOU'RE ON DOUBLE YELLOW LINES!
HEH!

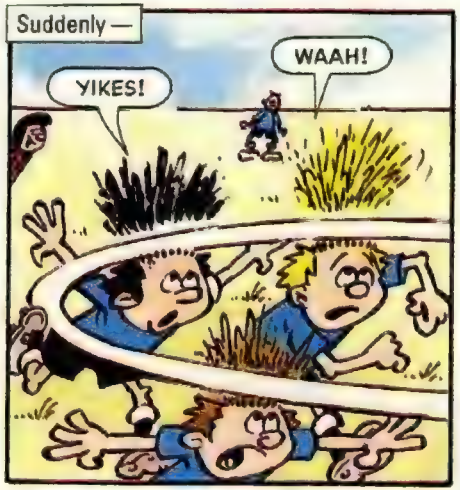
GRR! IT'S TIME WE GOT OUR OWN BACK ON THOSE CHEATS!

So —
THAT SIGN MEANS STOP AND GIVE WAY!
EH?
STOP

OH, NO!
STOP
YEAH! GIVE WAY TO US WITH THE BALL!

IT'S OKAY! I WON'T LET THEM SCORE AGAINST ME!

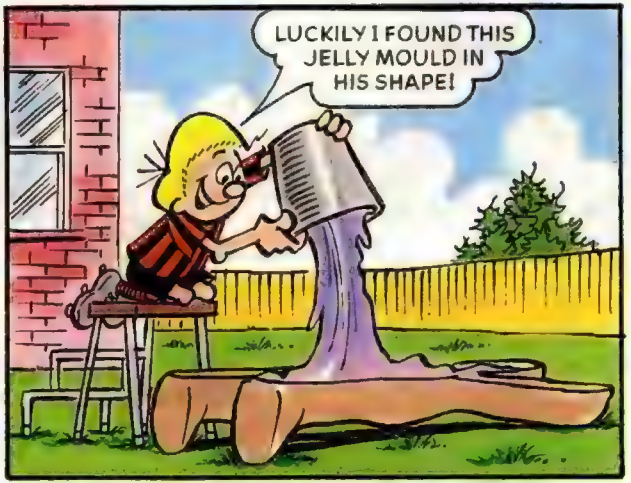
So, later —
THAT JUST MEANS THE ROAD BENDS TO THE RIGHT!
IGNORE IT!


Suddenly —
YIKES!
WAAH!

THAT WASN'T A ROAD SIGN — IT MEANT LOW FLYING BOOMERANGS! SORRY, COBBERS!
HANDY BRINGING ALONG MY AUSTRALIAN COUSIN, EH?

BALL BOY

OUR GOALIE CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY.


LUCKILY I FOUND THIS JELLY MOULD IN HIS SHAPE!

And —

HA! HA! HE MOVES FROM SIDE TO SIDE TOO! GREAT TACKLE!
BOING!
OOF!

HALF TIME!
PHWEEP!
AW! WE FORGOT TO BRING THE ORANGES!

SO WE'LL HAVE JELLY INSTEAD!
HOI, REF! THEY'RE EATING OUR GOALIE!

BUT HE CAN'T MOVE, BALL BOY!

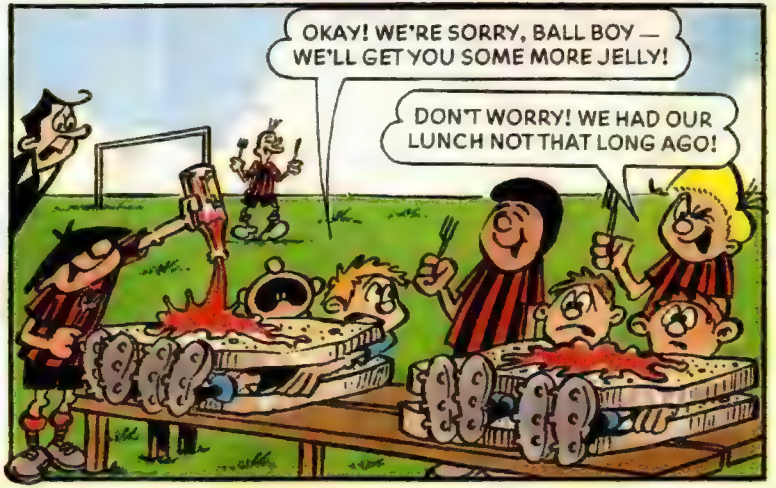
BUT IF YOU JUMP UP AND DOWN . . .

. . . HE CAN SAVE THE BALL!

AHEM!
NO PROBLEM! I'LL JUST DRIBBLE THE BALL ROUND HIM!
THUMP!

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN THE RULE BOOK ABOUT THAT BEING ILLEGAL!
GRRR!

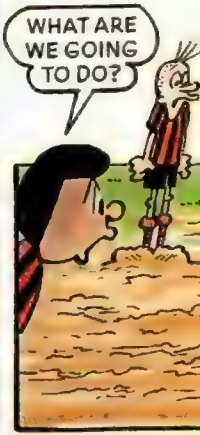
OH, NO! I WISH I'D NEVER SAID THAT NOW!


OKAY! WE'RE SORRY, BALL BOY — WE'LL GET YOU SOME MORE JELLY!
DON'T WORRY! WE HAD OUR LUNCH NOT THAT LONG AGO!

BALL BOY

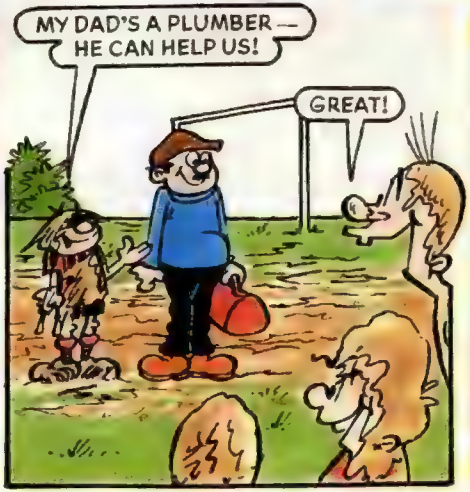
PHEW! IT'S A REALLY MUDDY PITCH TODAY!

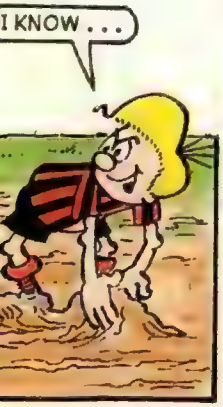
OH-OH! THERE GOES THE BALL!
BLOOP
BLOOP


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

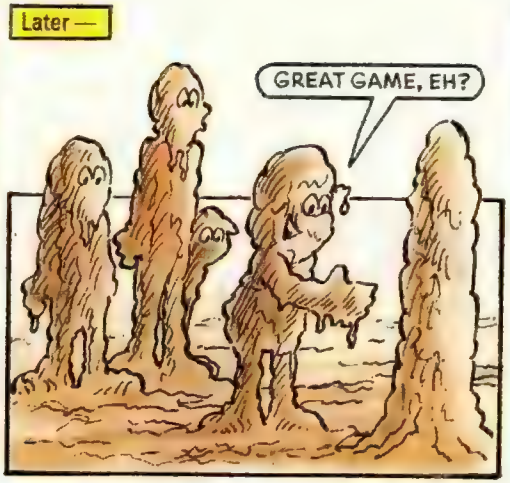
BECAUSE IT'S THE CORNER FLAG!
COO!

TIME FOR A SHOWER!
NO WAY ARE YOU MESSING UP THE CHANGING ROOMS!

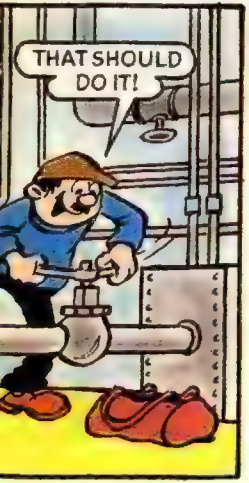

MY DAD'S A PLUMBER — HE CAN HELP US!
GREAT!

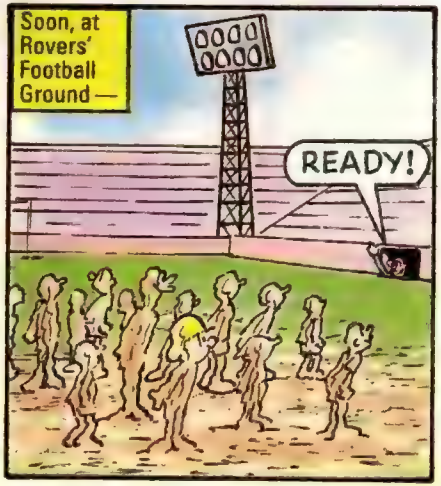

I KNOW . . .

. . . HAVE A MUD FIGHT! YAHOO!


Later —
GREAT GAME, EH?

HOI! WHY WON'T YOU SHAKE MY HAND?

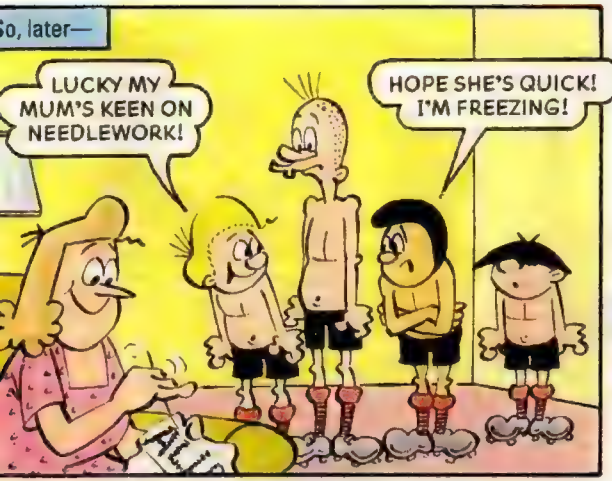

THAT SHOULD DO IT!

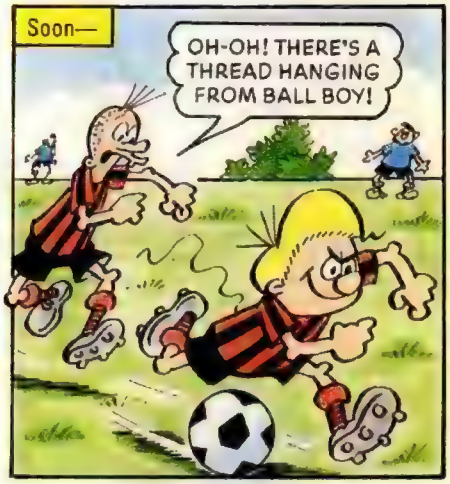

Soon, at Rovers' Football Ground —
READY!

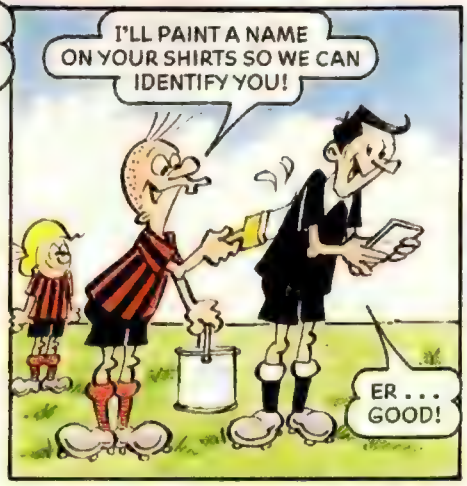
And —
THESE REALLY ARE FLOODLIGHTS!

Did you hear about the short sighted hedgehog?

It fell in love with a pin-cushion!







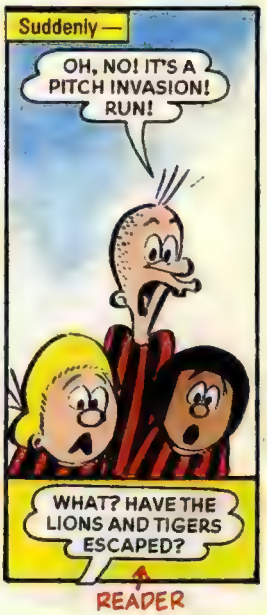
BALL BOY

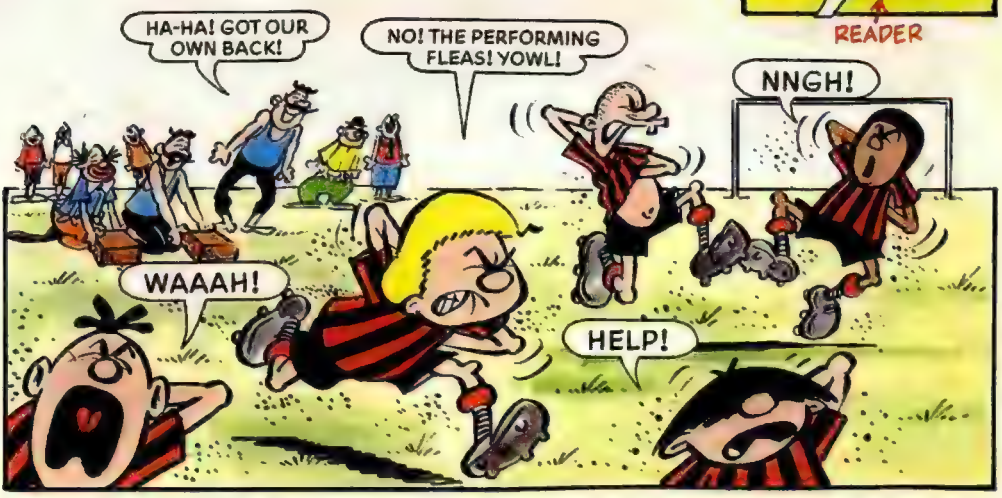
SIGH! WE'RE TANKING THIS TEAM OF CLOWNS!

SEE!

THE ACROBATS AREN'T MUCH BETTER!
READER
THEY CERTAINLY LOOK GOOD!

YEAH, BUT NO BALL CONTROL!


Suddenly —
OH, NO! IT'S A PITCH INVASION! RUN!
WHAT? HAVE THE LIONS AND TIGERS ESCAPED?
READER


HA-HA! GOT OUR OWN BACK!
NO! THE PERFORMING FLEAS! YOWL!
NNGH!
WAAAH!
HELP!

BALL BOY
WE'RE MEANT TO BE PLAYING THE ARMY CADET TEAM, BUT WE'LL CLAIM THE GAME BECAUSE THEY HAVEN'T TURNED UP!
Suddenly —
HALT! WE'RE HERE!
WOW! WE DIDN'T SEE THEM — CAMOUFLAGE EXPERTS!
Then —
BUT THEY DO HAVE A GOOD DEFENSIVE WALL!
HMM.
CADETS! ATTEN-SHUN! QUICK MARCH!
YAHOO!

So —
SHOULD BE EASY . . .

. . . LOOK AT THEIR HEAVY KIT, BOYS! HA-HA!
GASP!
WHEEZE!

And —
NOW THAT THE BALL'S DIRTY — THEY'LL NOT KICK IT!
CAN'T RUIN OUR BOOTS!

TIME TO BRING ON OUR SUPER SUB — NUMBER 13!

HUH! THEY KEPT THIS SECRET WEAPON UNDER WRAPS! WHAT A SHOT!
GOAL!
BOOM!
NO. 13

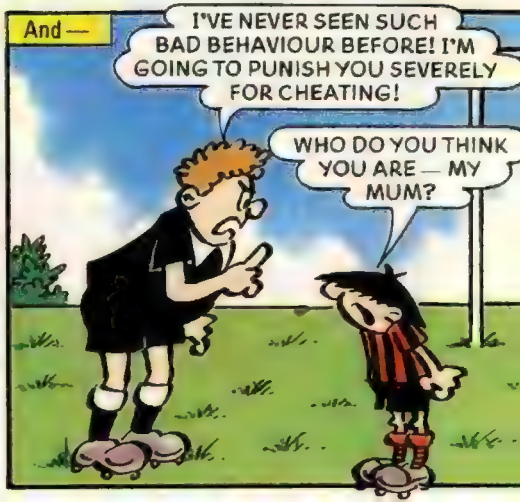
BALL BOY

WAAAH!

PHWEEP! FREE KICK AGAINST TITCH!
WHAT?
OH, NO! TITCH HAS A SHORT TEMPER!

CHORTLE! THEY'VE GOT A SUBSTITUTE REF!
REF
REF

Later —
GUESS WHO?
ERM . . .


And —
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH BAD BEHAVIOUR BEFORE! I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU SEVERELY FOR CHEATING!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE — MY MUM?

YOU NEED YOUR EYES TESTED, YOU OLD DUFFER!
RIGHT, I'M BOOKING YOU FOR DISSENT!

AMAZING! STILL ABLE TO READ AND WRITE AT YOUR AGE!

THAT'S IT! I'M NOT STAYING HERE TO BE INSULTED!
NO? WHERE DO YOU USUALLY GO?

RIGHT FIRST TIME!
M-M-MUM!

DID YOUR MUM GIVE YOU THE RED CARD, TITCH?
READER

NO! SHE SENT ME TO BED WITH NO SUPPER! SNIFF!
THAT SHOULD STOP HIS BAD BEHAVIOUR IN THE FUTURE!
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

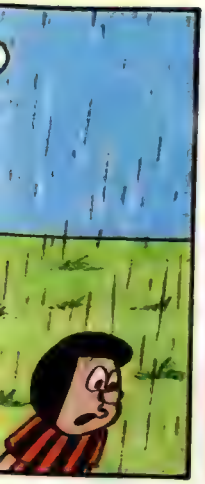
GROAN! THIS TEAM ARE BRILLIANT — THAT'S TWELVE NIL ALREADY!

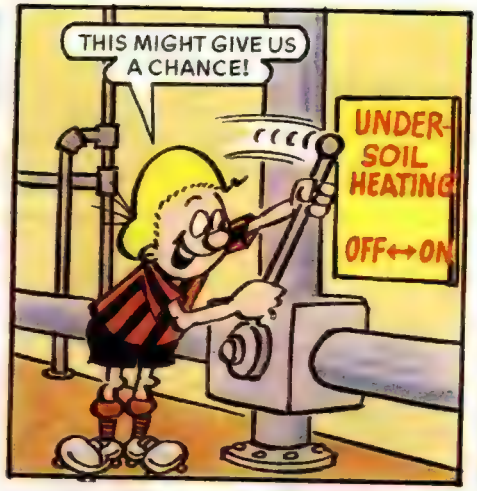
PHEW! THEY'RE DEDICATED THEY EVEN TRAIN AT HALF-TIME!
LET'S GET OUT OF THE RAIN!

CHORTLE! THEIR TEAM HAS SHRUNK IN THE HEAT!

So —
HAH! THIS IS GOING TO BE SO EASY!
OOF!

But —
TUT! THE GOAL HAS SHRUNK AS WELL — WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SCORE!




THIS MIGHT GIVE US A CHANCE!
UNDER-SOIL HEATING
OFF↔ON

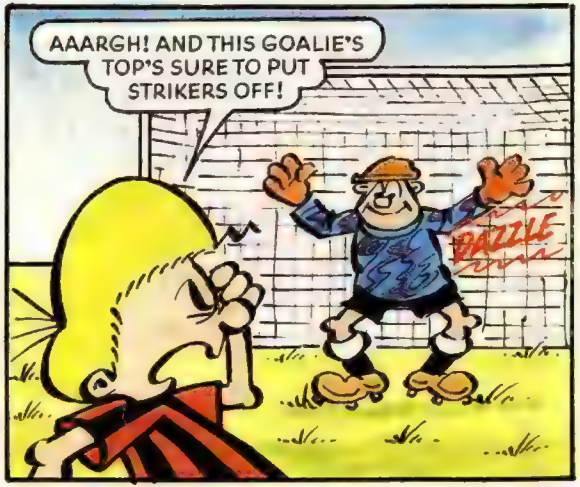
Back on the pitch —
PHEW! IT'S HOT!
ALL THE WATER'S TURNING TO STEAM!
IT'S LIKE A SWAMP!

Soon —
CHORTLE! WE'VE TURNED THE HEATING OFF NOW!

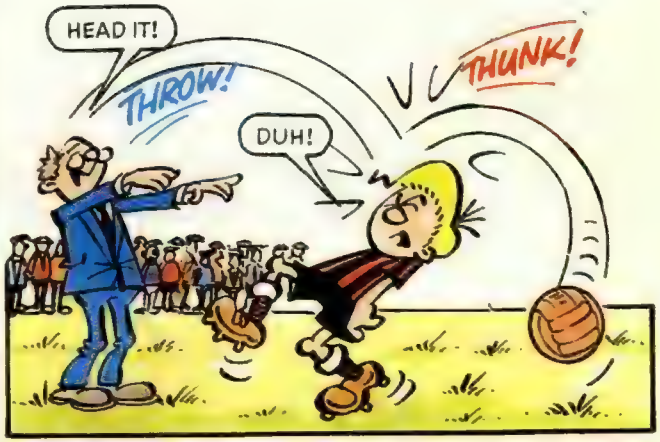
GASP! HAVE YOU DECIDED TO SHRINK TO THEIR SIZE TOO?
READER'S VOICE

NO! WE ABANDONED THE GAME AND DECIDED TO PLAY TABLE FOOTBALL!
GROWN BACK TO NORMAL
CHEEK! WE WEREN'T THAT SMALL, READERS!

BALL BOY



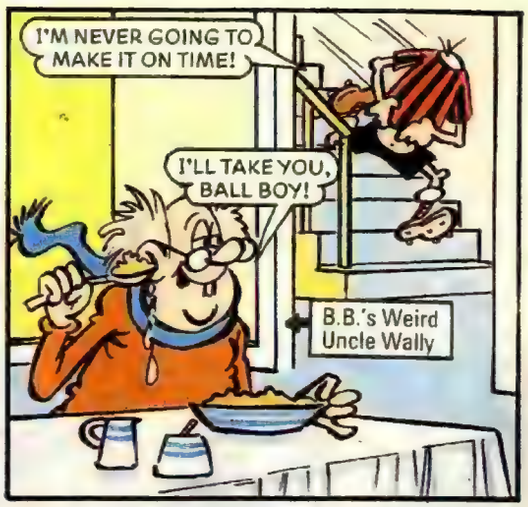
What do you call a team of ice-cream salesmen?

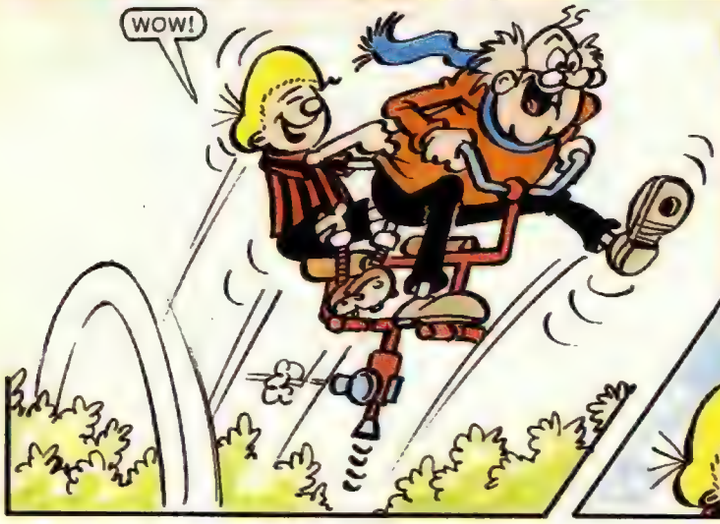


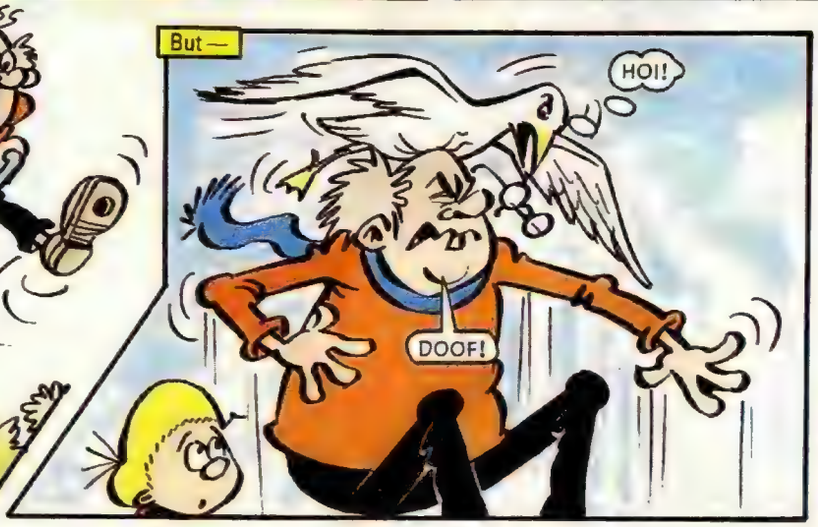
Aston Vanilla!

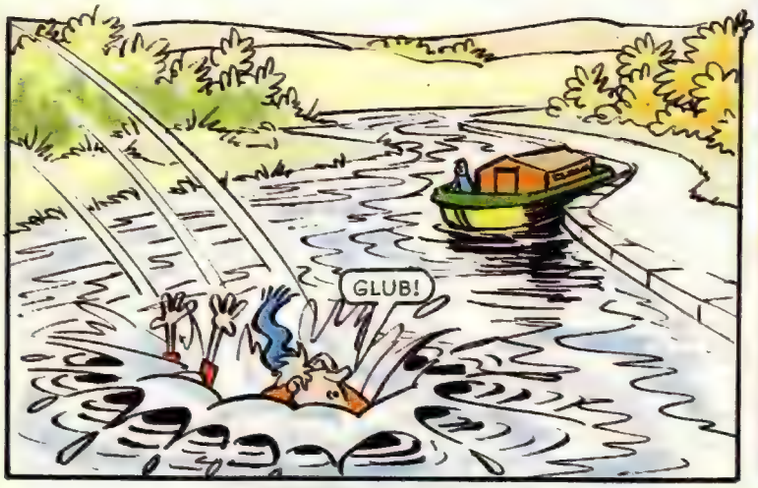
BALLBOY

OH, NO! I'VE OVERSLEPT! I'LL BE LATE FOR TODAY'S MATCH!


I'M NEVER GOING TO MAKE IT ON TIME!
I'LL TAKE YOU, BALL BOY!
B.B.'s Weird Uncle Wally


WOW!


But —
HOI!
DOOF!


GLUB!

I THINK I'D BETTER DRIVE. YOU CAN'T SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

So —

NO NEED TO HURRY — THE REF HASN'T TURNED UP!

HEY! UNCLE WALLY WOULD MAKE A PERFECT REFEREE —

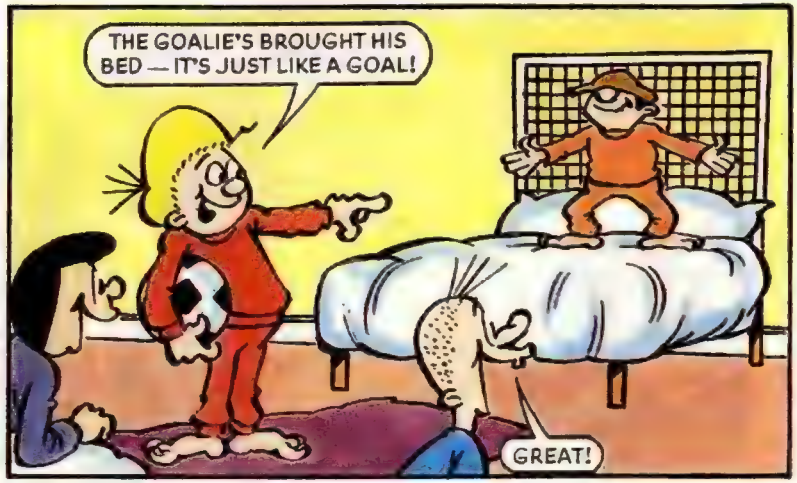
— HALF DAFT AND ALMOST BLIND! THE PERFECT QUALIFICATIONS!

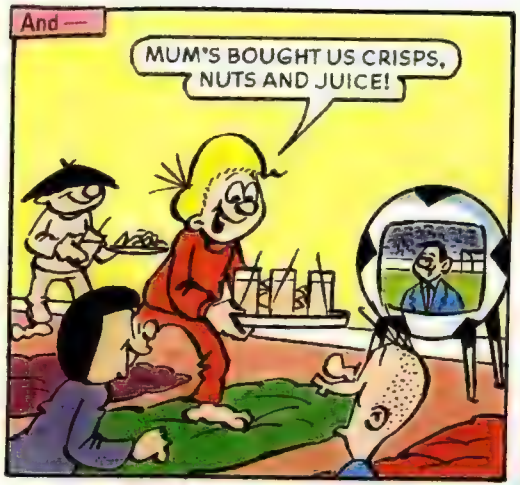
BALL BOY

WITH THE WORLD CUP BEING PLAYED IN AMERICA, SOME OF THE GAMES ARE ON AT UNUSUAL TIMES.

THERE'S A GAME ON LATE TONIGHT, SO I'VE ASKED THE LADS OVER! THEY'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING TO SLEEP IN TOO!
'BYE, DAD!

NEVER MIND — WE CAN HAVE A PENALTY COMPETITION WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE MATCH TO COME ON AGAIN!
HOW?

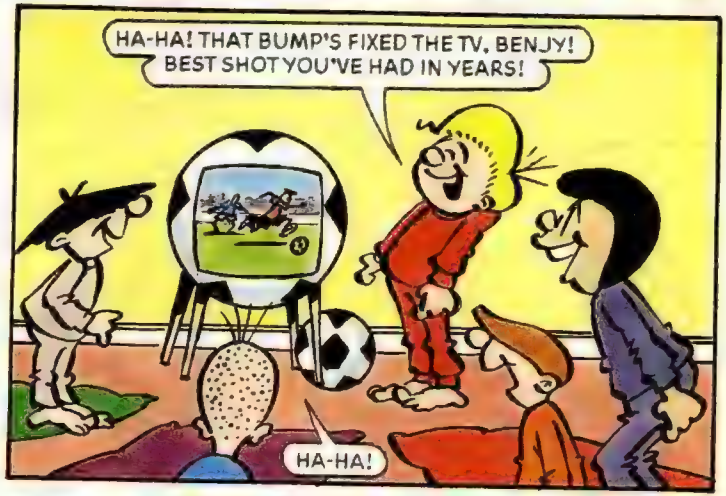

THE GOALIE'S BROUGHT HIS BED — IT'S JUST LIKE A GOAL!
GREAT!


And —
MUM'S BOUGHT US CRISPS, NUTS AND JUICE!

HOWDY DOODY, FOLKS! WELL, HAVE WE GOT A ROOTIN'-TOOTIN' CRACKER OF A MATCH TONIGHT . . .

Suddenly —
AW! THE TELLY'S ON THE BLINK.
FZZ!
CRACKLE!
FZZ!

But —
OOOPS!
OH, NO!


HA-HA! THAT BUMP'S FIXED THE TV, BENJY! BEST SHOT YOU'VE HAD IN YEARS!
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

OO-ER! THESE CARS ARE PARKED AWFULLY CLOSE TO THE PITCH!

WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT ANY OF THEM!

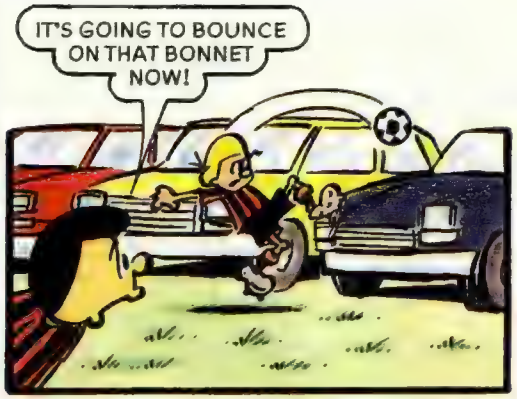
SAVED IT!
PHEW!

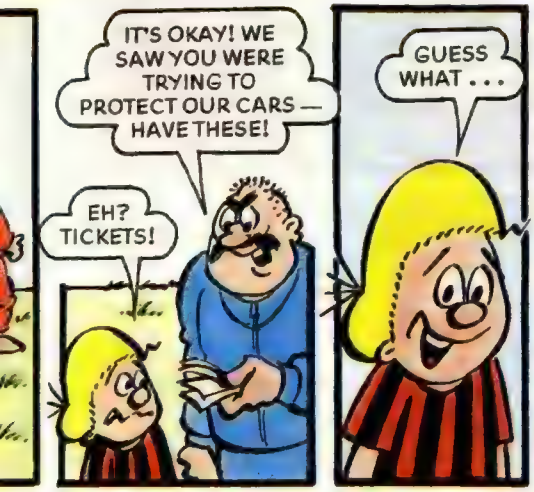
But —
WHEEEEEE!
OH, NO! I MUST HAVE STARTED THAT CAR ALARM!

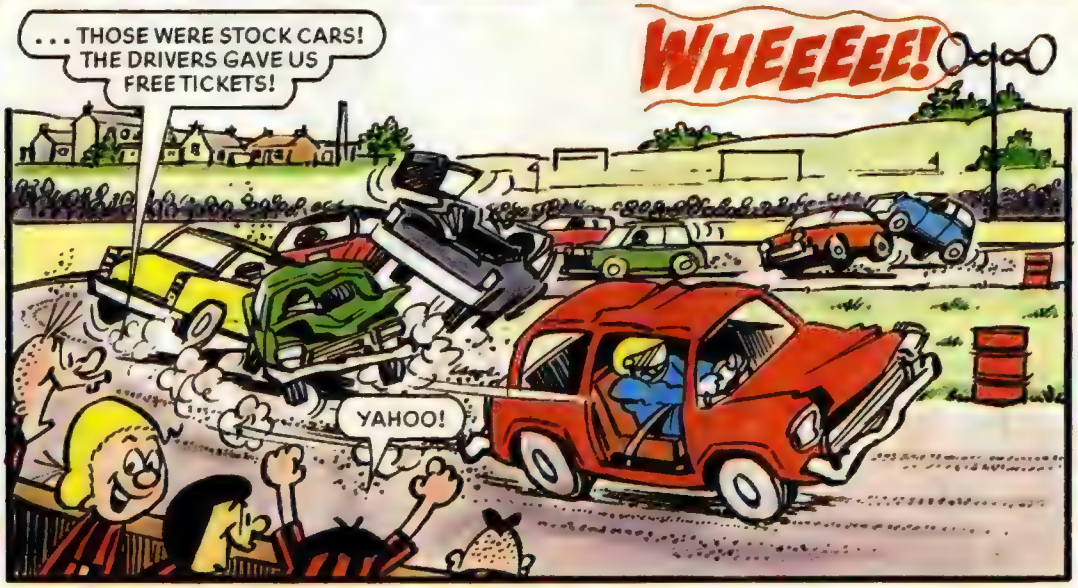
Then —
L-LOOKS LIKE MOTORBIKERS! WHAT ARE THEY D-DOING H-HERE?

TO YOU, BALL BOY! OH, NO!
THE BALL'S GOING TO HIT THAT WINDSCREEN!

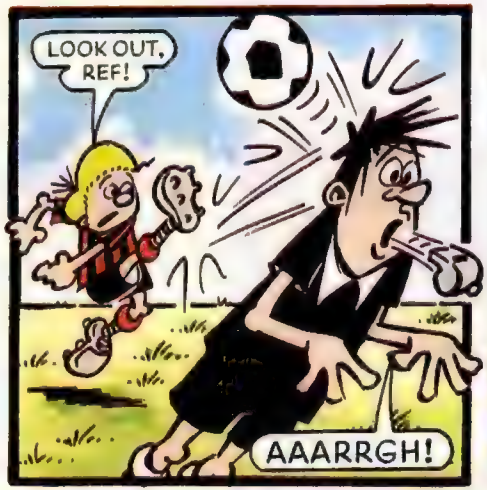
NNNGH!

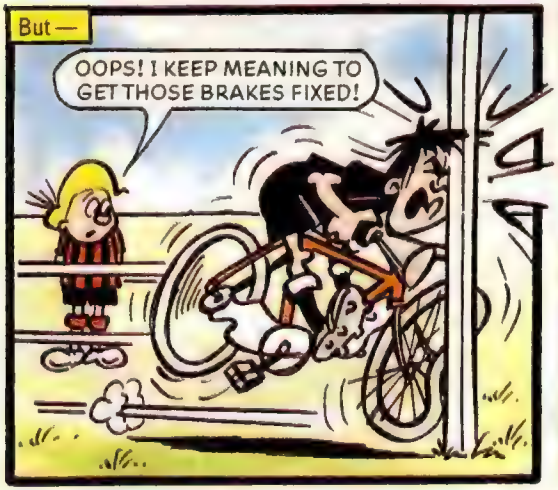

IT'S GOING TO BOUNCE ON THAT BONNET NOW!


IT'S OKAY! WE SAW YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT OUR CARS — HAVE THESE!
EH? TICKETS!
GUESS WHAT . . .

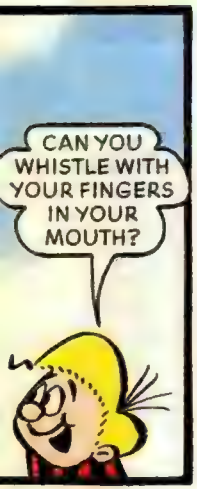

. . . THOSE WERE STOCK CARS! THE DRIVERS GAVE US FREE TICKETS!
WHEEEEE!
YAHOO!

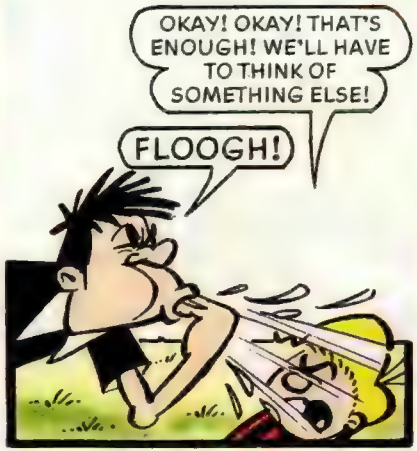
Why did the trainer flood the pitch?

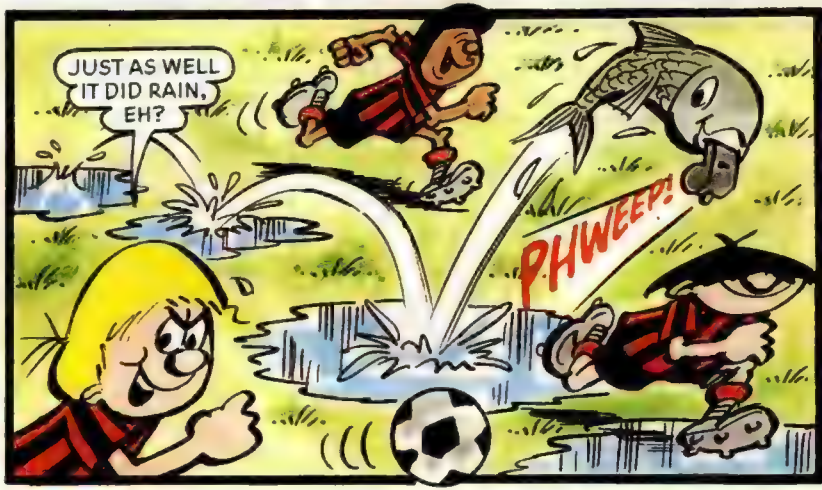




He wanted to bring on the SUB!



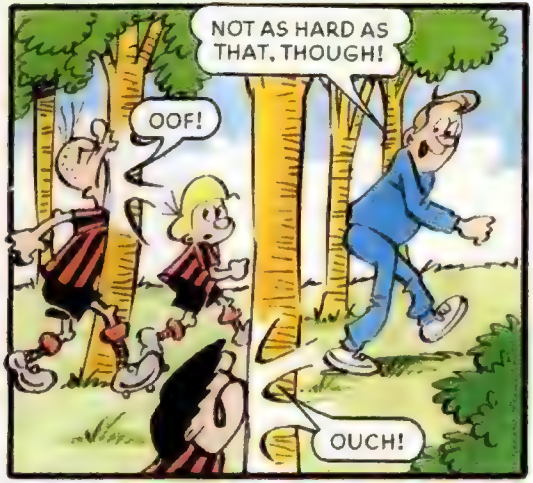




BALL BOY

OUR NEW TRAINER HAS SOME UNUSUAL METHODS.

NOW BEFORE YOU PLAY IN THE CUP FINAL, BOYS, I WANT YOU ALL TO RELAX!


NOT AS HARD AS THAT, THOUGH!
OOF!
OUCH!

SMELL THE LOVELY FLOWERS!
SNIFF

AARRGH! STUNG BY THAT WASP!

W-W-WE CAN'T! WE'RE S-S-SO N-N-NERVOUS!
I CAN HELP YOU!

So—
GO OFF AND ENJOY NATURE, BOYS! YOU KNOW, GAZE AT THE SKY . . .

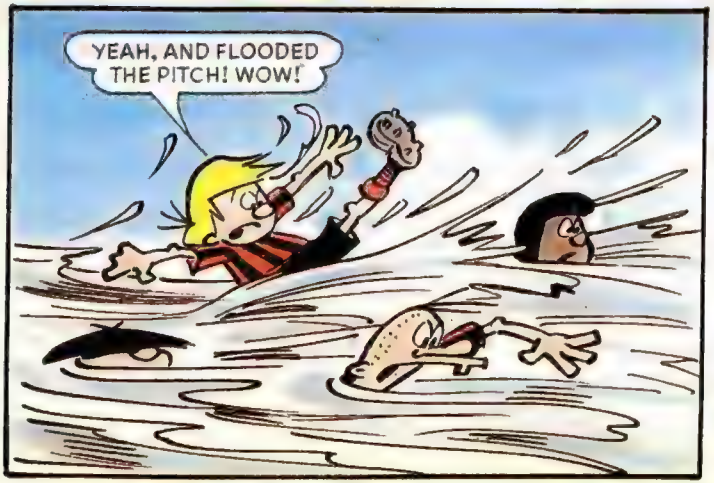
. . . TOUCH THE TREES!

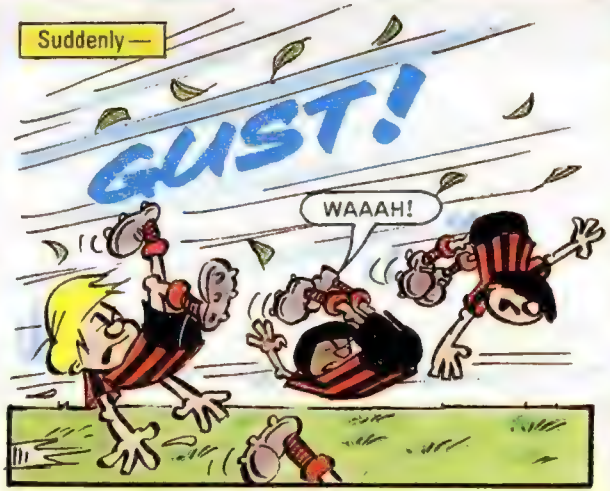
AND WE'VE CAUGHT HAYFEVER!
CHOO!
CHOO!
CHOO!

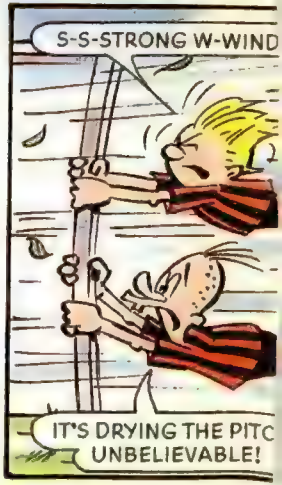
WELL, ARE YOU READY FOR THE FINAL?

ER . . . AT LEAST I CURED THEIR NERVES!
UHH!
AARGH! CALL THE MATCH OFF!
CHOO!

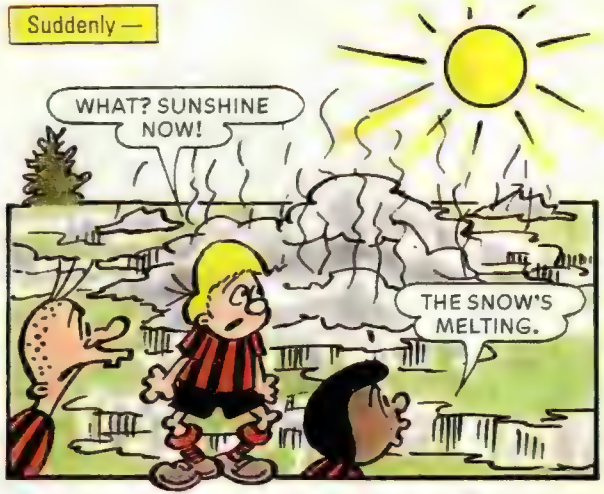
Did you hear about the hopeless striker?

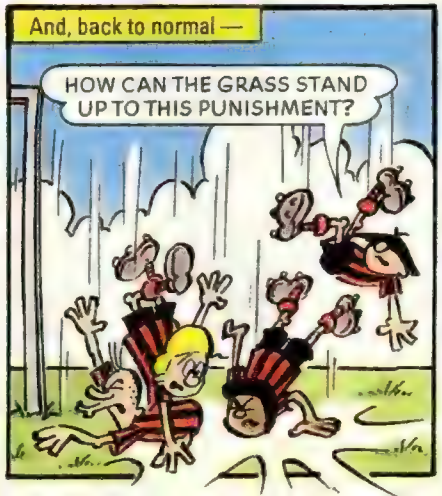




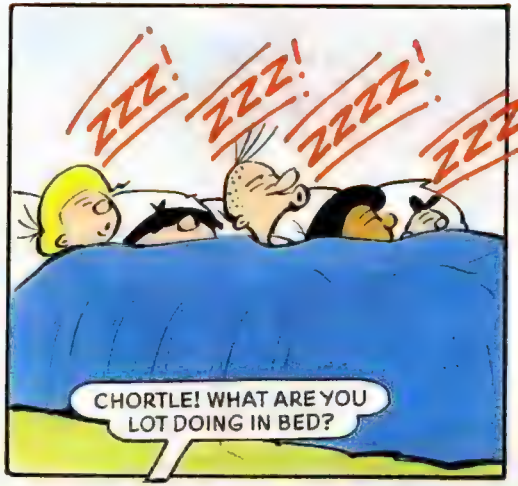


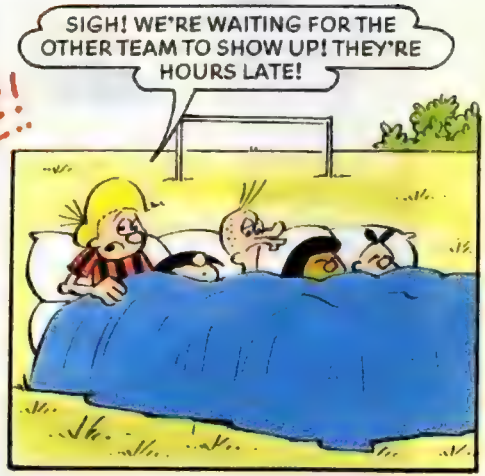
He went out in the fog and MIST!



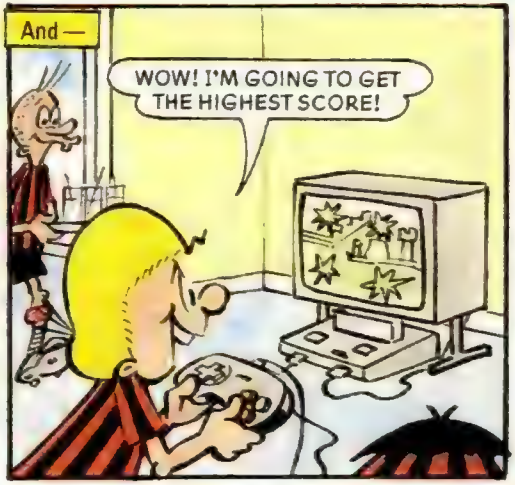


Why did you take a tape measure to bed?





I wanted to see how long I slept!



BALL
BOY

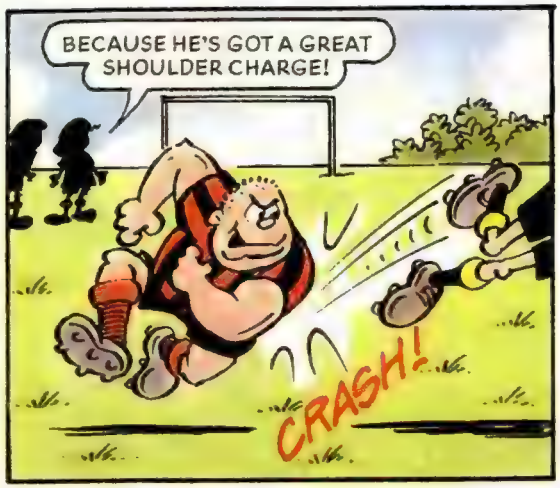
THIS IS OUR NEW PLAYER!

HE'S USELESS — WHY DID YOU SIGN HIM?
WHUMP!

. . . AND MOVE THE ADVERTISING BOARDS ON TO THE TOUCHLINE!
BUY THE
BEANO

And —
HE CAN PLAY SNOOKER WITH OUR OPPONENTS . . .
THUD!
BOING!
BEA
BU
BEA
BUY TH
BASH!
AARGH!
WAAH!

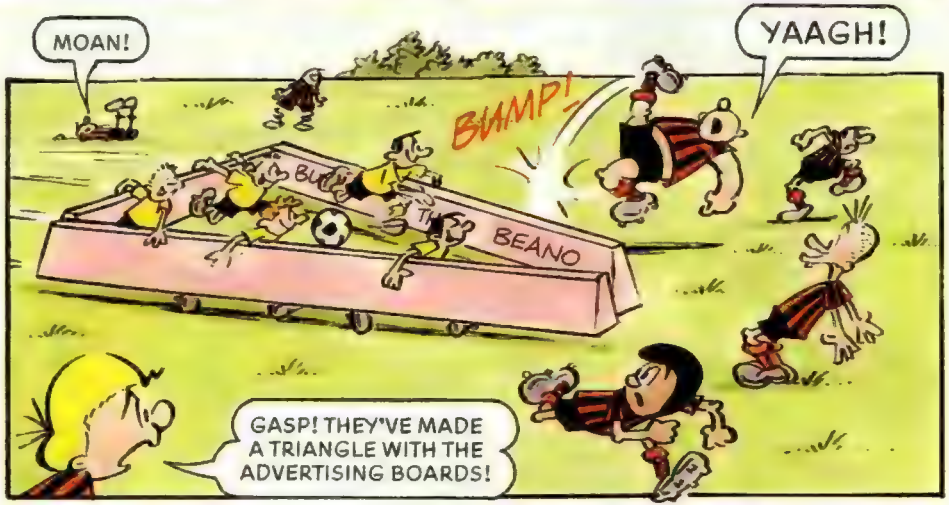
. . . AND WHEN THEY ARE ALL KNOCKED INTO THE POCKETS, WE CAN GO ON AND SCORE!
CHEATS!


BECAUSE HE'S GOT A GREAT SHOULDER CHARGE!
CRASH!

HE'S GIVEN ME AN IDEA!
BANG!
OOYAH!

So —
THAT'S IT — DIG A HOLE AT EACH CORNER . . .

WE WON'T BE SO EASY TO BEAT IN THE SECOND FRAME — ER — HALF!
BEANO
BUY!


MOAN!
YAAGH!
BUMP!
BEANO
GASP! THEY'VE MADE A TRIANGLE WITH THE ADVERTISING BOARDS!

BALL BOY

PLAYING AT THIS STATELY HOME IS A BIT DIFFERENT!

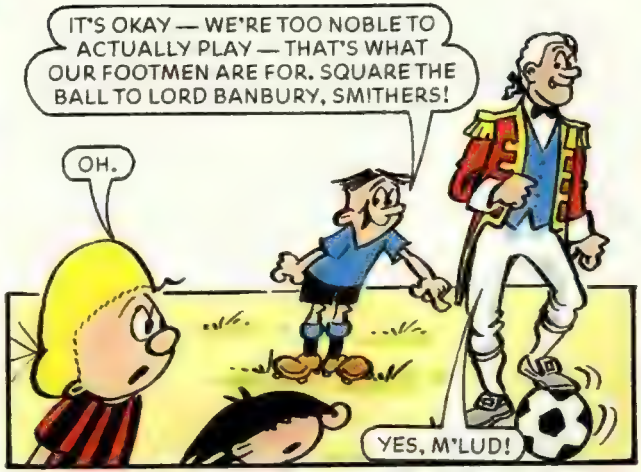
COO! A DRAWBRIDGE TO THE PITCH!

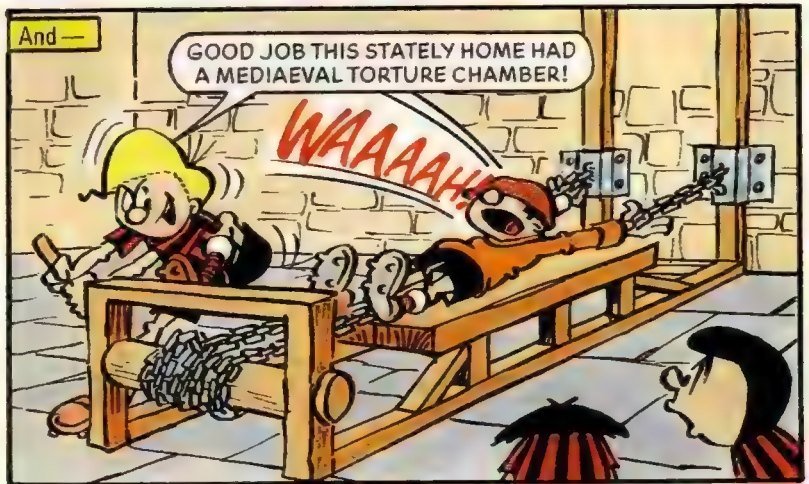
And so —
FLICKING THE BALL AHEAD, JUMP OVER THE TACKLE AND CONTINUE DOWN THE WING!
YES, M'LUD BANBURY!

After ninety minutes —
PHEEP!
OH, NO! NIL NIL — YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!

WE'RE BOUND TO LOSE!
I'VE GOT A PLAN!

HEY! YOU'VE GOT TOO MANY PLAYERS! THAT'S NOT FAIR!

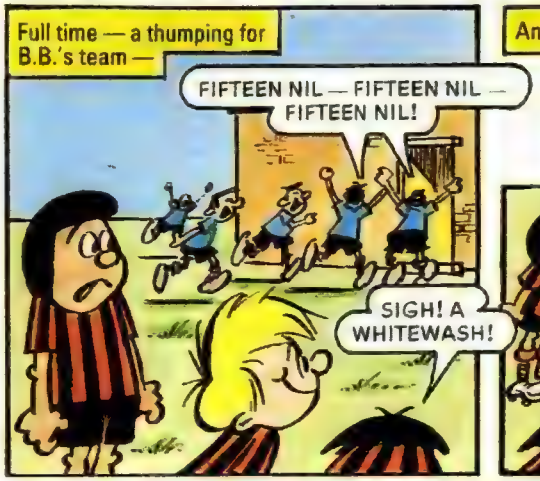

IT'S OKAY — WE'RE TOO NOBLE TO ACTUALLY PLAY — THAT'S WHAT OUR FOOTMEN ARE FOR. SQUARE THE BALL TO LORD BANBURY, SMITHERS!
OH.
YES, M'LUD!


And —
GOOD JOB THIS STATELY HOME HAD A MEDIAEVAL TORTURE CHAMBER!
WAAAAH!

And —
BAH! WE CAN'T SCORE!
WHAT A GOALIE! WE KNEW IT WOULD GO TO PENALTY KICKS!

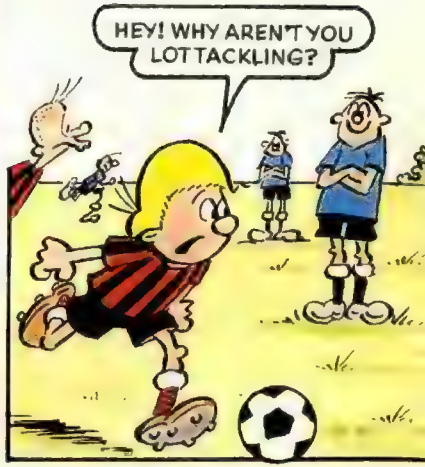
Why did the writer call his film "The Broken Leg"?

Because it had a strong cast!



BALL
BOY

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO SCORE!


HEY! WHY AREN'T YOU LOT TACKLING?

Then —
MY NEPHEW PEDRO IS ON HOLIDAY HERE. LET'S GIVE HIM A GAME!
OKAY!

And —
CHEER
WOW! LOOK AT THAT SKILL!

Until —
YAHOO!
Y-E-S-!

Then —
GASP!
KEEP OFF THE GRASS

NNGGH! THE GOAL'S TOO FAR AWAY!
EASY!

THEY'RE BEANO-TOWN PARKIES — MUST OBEY THE RULES!

IT'S JUST LIKE A WORLD CUP ATMOSPHERE!

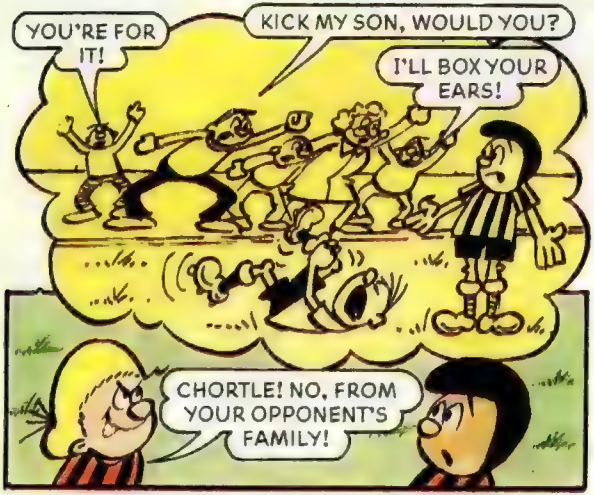
So —
READER
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER TEAM?

MOAN! PESKY LITTER LOUTS!
DON'T THEY KNOW THE MESS THEY'RE MAKING?
HO! HO! I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RESIST PICKING UP ALL THAT LITTER!

BALL
BOY

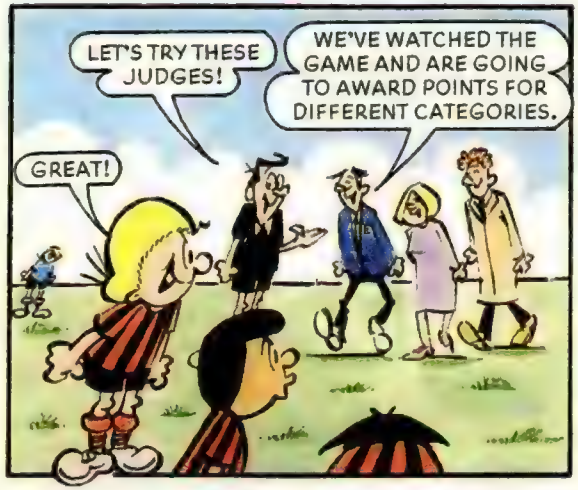
OH, NO! END OF EXTRA TIME AND NO SCORING.
THAT MEANS PENALTY KICKS AGAIN!

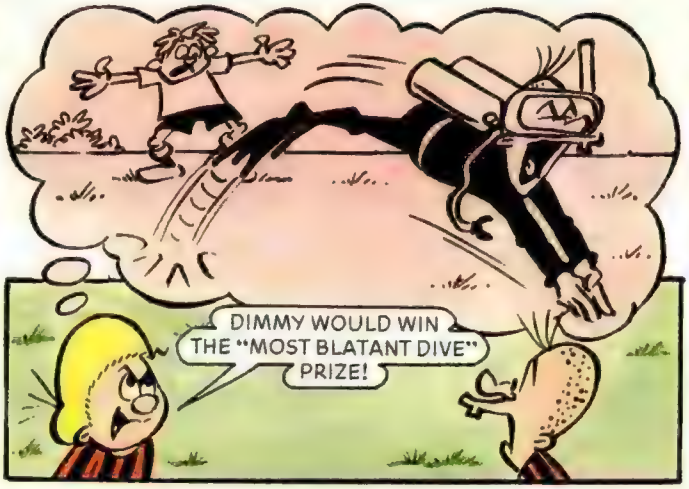
But—
LET'S HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO PENALTY KICKS!
OKAY! BUT WHAT?


YOU'RE FOR IT!
KICK MY SON, WOULD YOU?
I'LL BOX YOUR EARS!
CHORTLE! NO, FROM YOUR OPPONENT'S FAMILY!

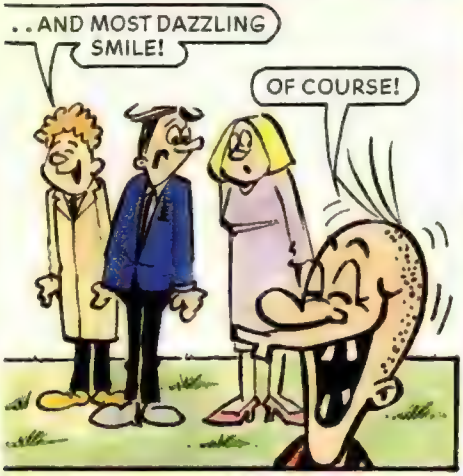
But—
THE CATEGORIES ARE — BEST HAIRCUT . . .

. . . CUTEST LEGS . . .
THAT'S ME!
HA! HA!


LET'S TRY THESE JUDGES!
WE'VE WATCHED THE GAME AND ARE GOING TO AWARD POINTS FOR DIFFERENT CATEGORIES.
GREAT!


DIMMY WOULD WIN THE "MOST BLATANT DIVE" PRIZE!

BENJY WOULD WIN THE "MOST WARNINGS" PRIZE.
FROM THE REFEREE?


..AND MOST DAZZLING SMILE!
OF COURSE!

AND THE WINNER IS . . .

. . . THE REFEREE!
YAHOO! SIMPLY THE BEST!
AW!

BALL BOY

At Beanotown sports ground —
THROW-IN TO US!

G-GULP!
READER
IT'S ONLY A THROW-IN, GOALIE! RELAX!

THIS BALL WILL DO AS THE BATON IN OUR RELAY SPRINT!

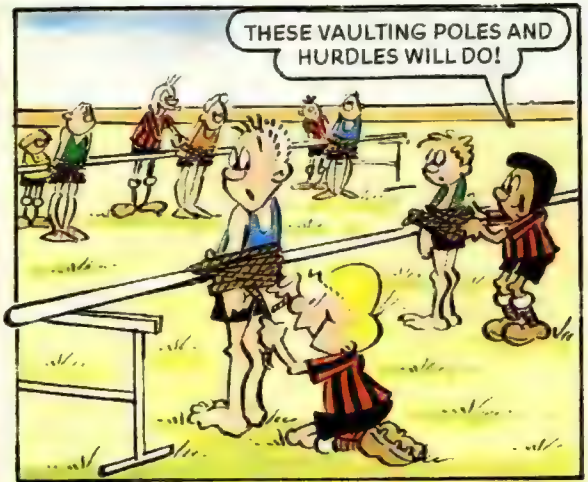
Later —
GRR! PITY THEY WEREN'T SHORT OF JAVELINS!
THAT'S RUINED OUR GAME!

So —
GET THEM!

HUP!
IT'S NOT THAT! IT'S THIS HIGH JUMPER!

WE'RE A BIT SHORT OF SOME EQUIPMENT! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND!

Suddenly —
HOI!


THESE VAULTING POLES AND HURDLES WILL DO!

And —
CHORTLE! WE'RE HAVING A GAME OF TABLE FOOTBALL.
OUCH! OUR TOES! HOWL!
I'M SORRY WE DON'T HAVE A BALL — ONLY THE HEAVY SHOT!

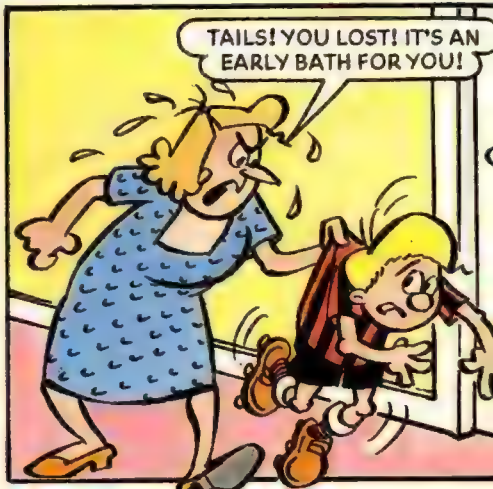
BALL
BOY

STOP PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD, BALL BOY!

WHAT A GOAL!
HUH!

HERE — THE MAGIC SPONGE WILL FIX YOU IN NO TIME!
GLUB!

GRR! TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!
A TOSS UP? ER-HEADS!

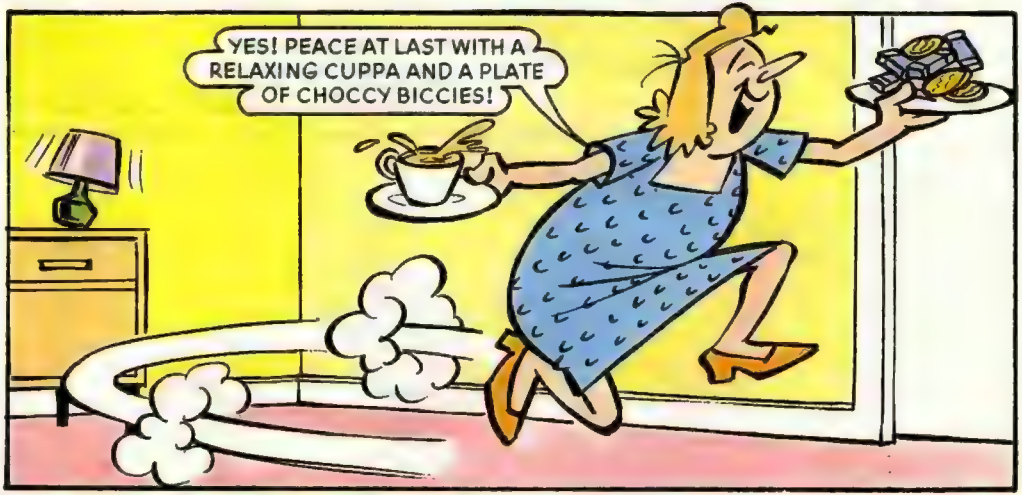

TAILS! YOU LOST! IT'S AN EARLY BATH FOR YOU!

PASS ME THE PEPPER, PLEASE!

I'LL TAKE A THROW-IN — OOPS!
HOWL!

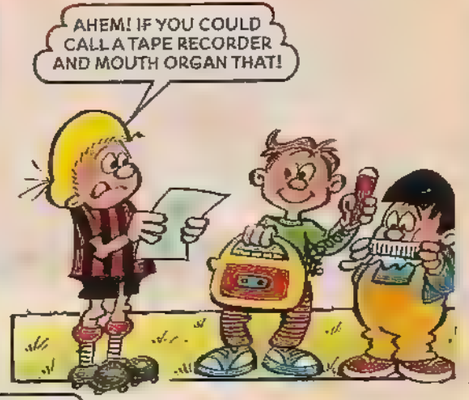
GRR! ATCHOO! WHY DO YOU ALWAYS-ATCHOO- HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WITH FOOTBALL?
CAN'T HELP IT — I'M BALL BOY!

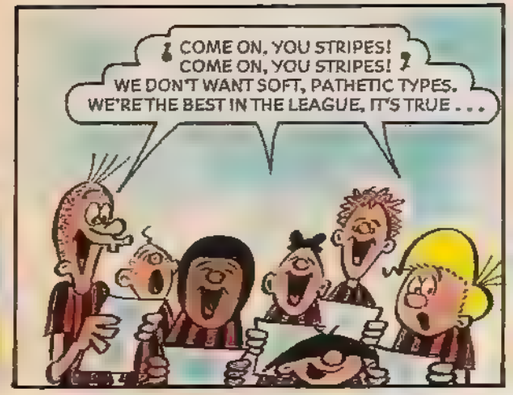
MUM'S DOING A LAP OF HONOUR WITH THE CUP!

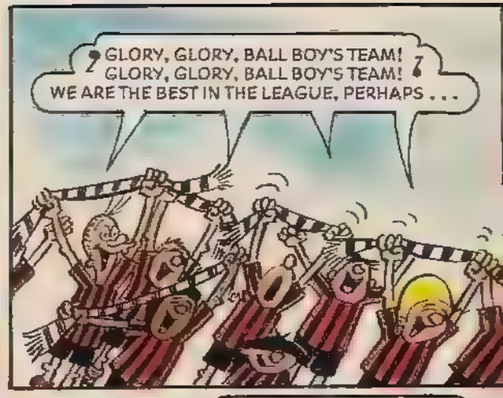

YES! PEACE AT LAST WITH A RELAXING CUPPA AND A PLATE OF CHOCCY BICCIES!

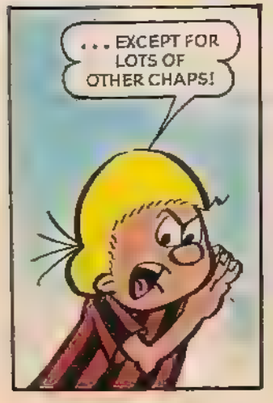
What do you call a Russian Footballer in a Yak skin shirt?

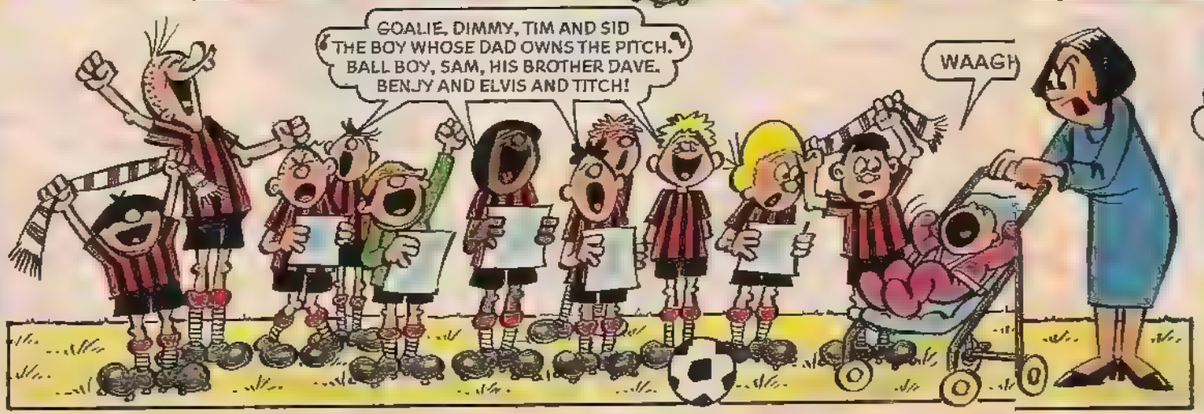
Ivan Awfulitch!

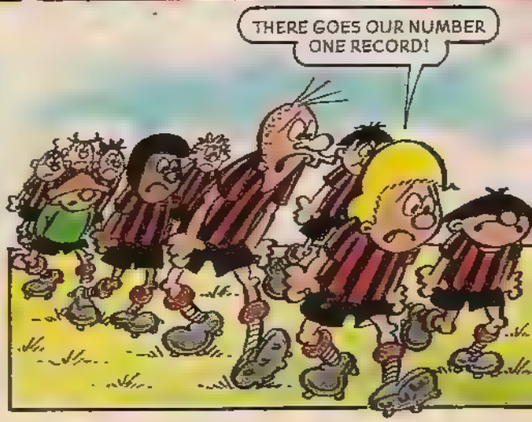






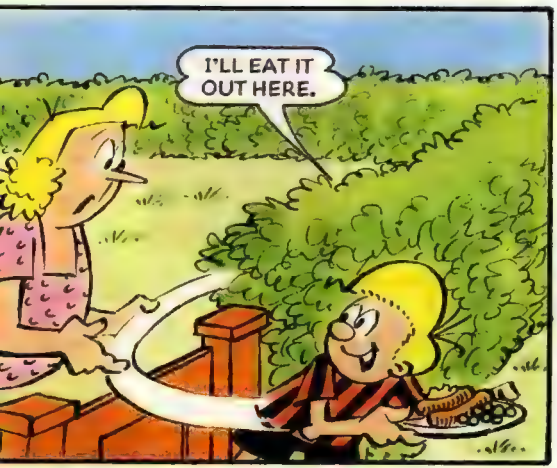


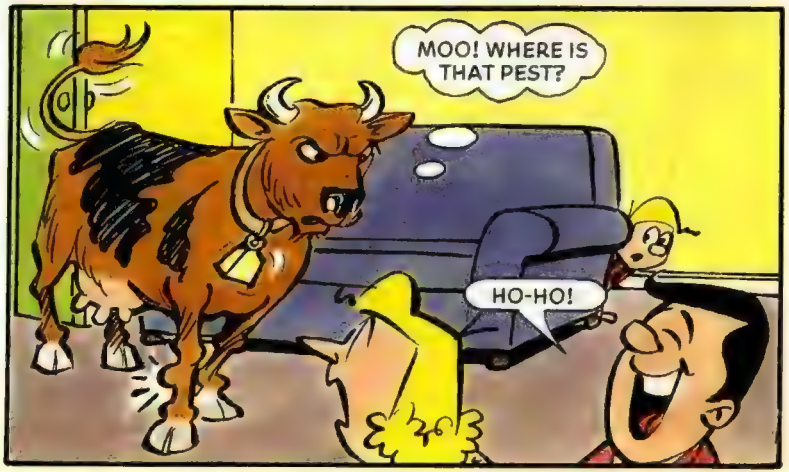




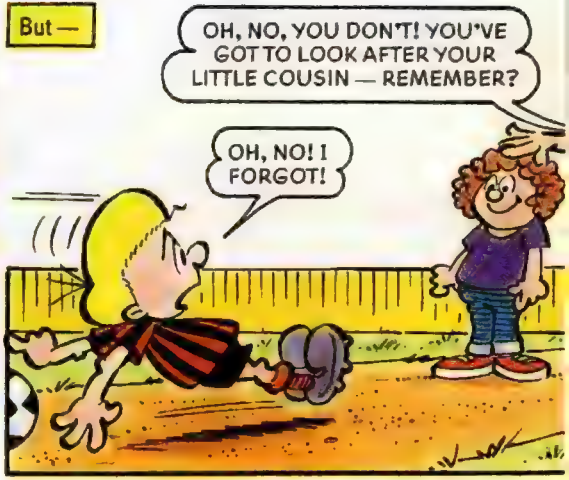
Where do cows go for a night out?

To the MOO-OO-VIES!

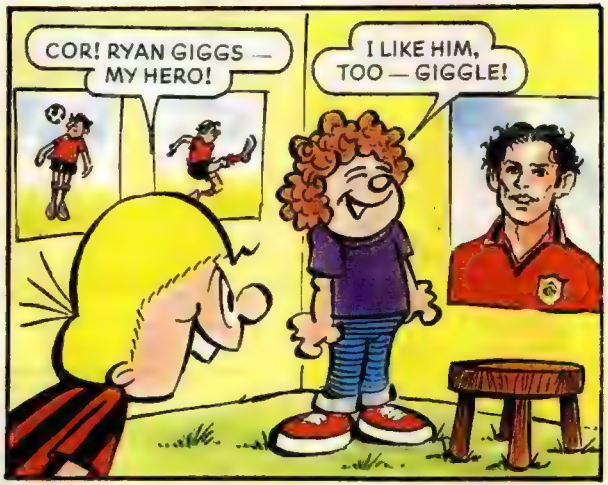


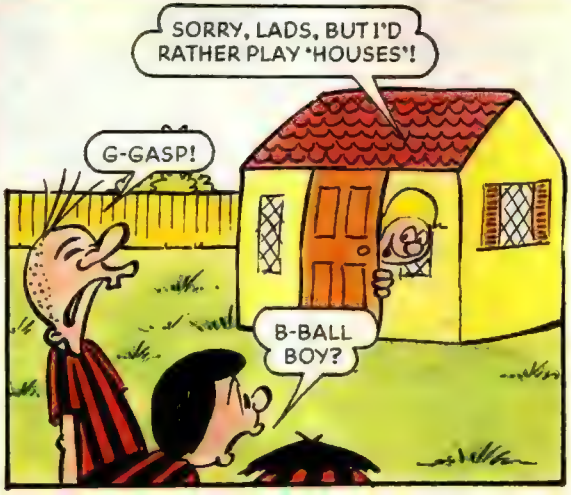


Does your house suffer from damp?

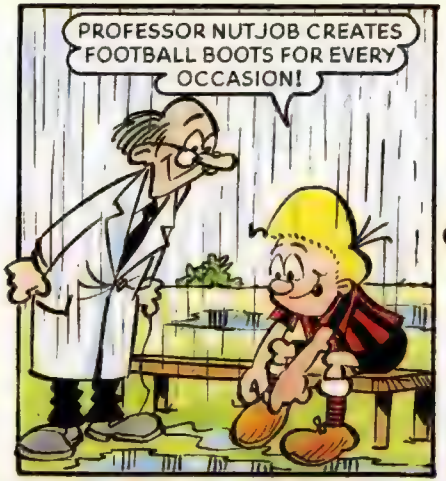


I'll say — I found a fish in the mousetrap yesterday!





BALL
BOY


PROFESSOR NUTJOB CREATES FOOTBALL BOOTS FOR EVERY OCCASION!

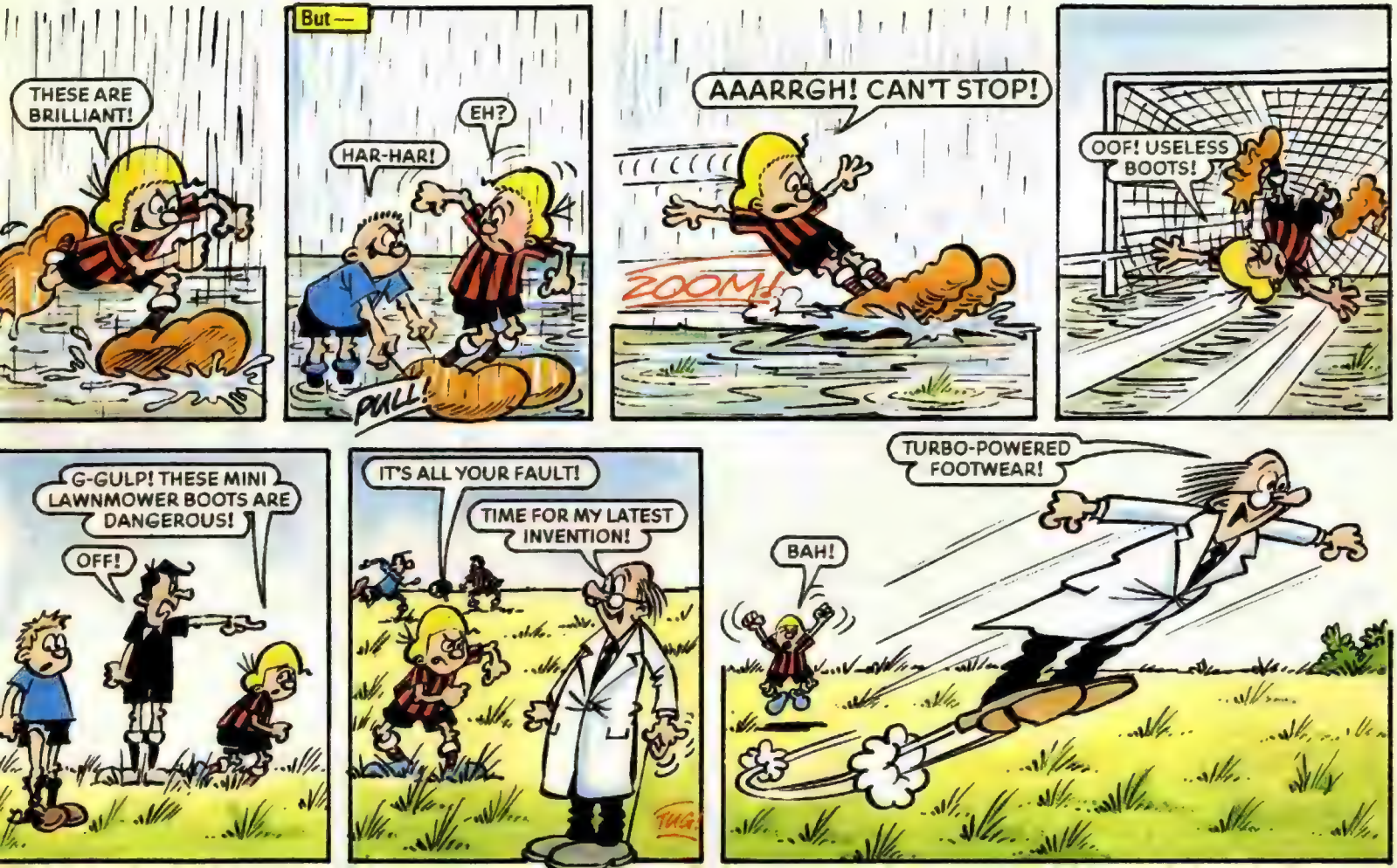
THESE ONES ARE GREAT FOR PLAYING ON WATER-LOGGED PITCHES!

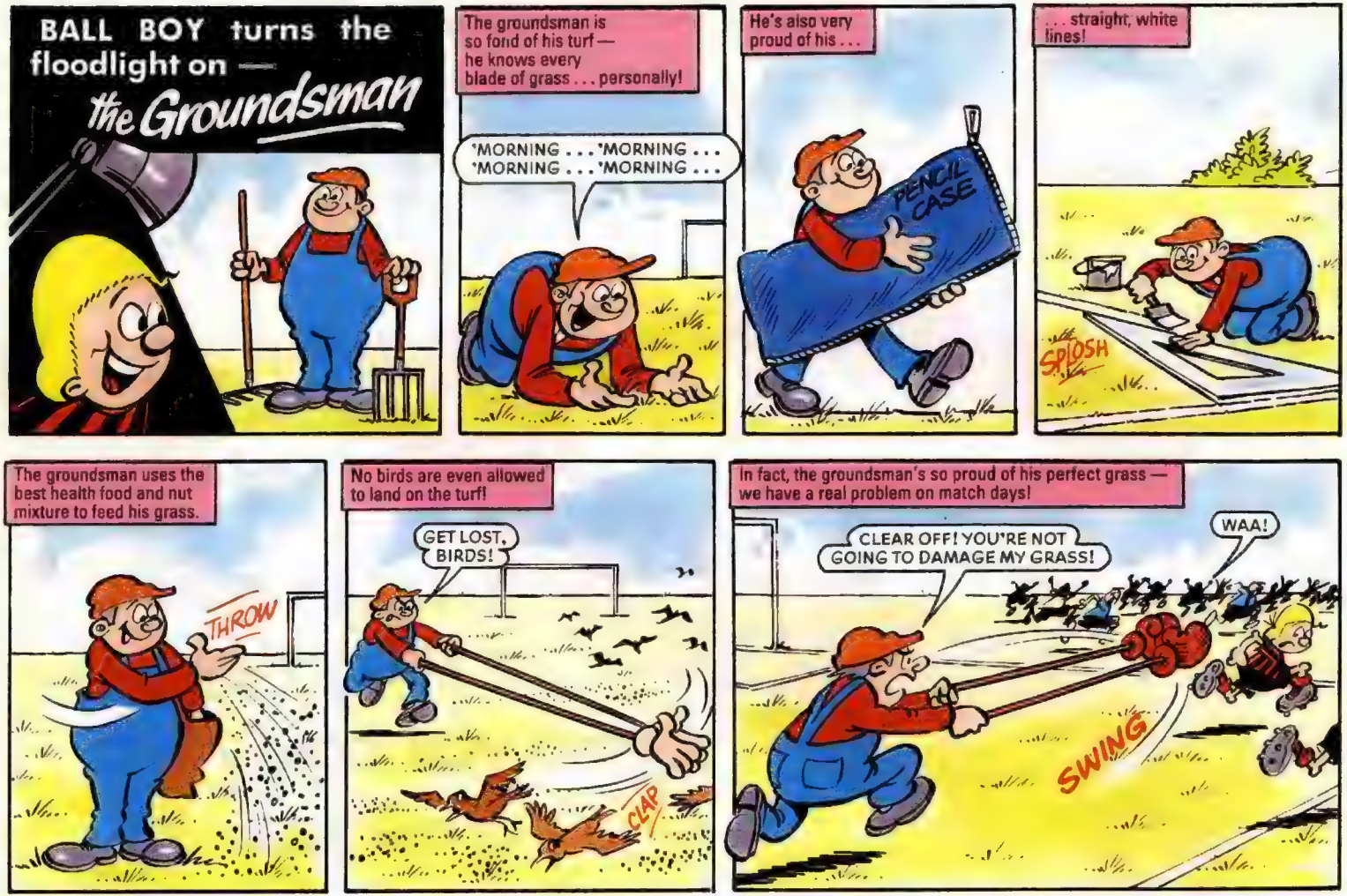
PUFF! PUFF!

A few days later —
THAT RAIN MADE THE GRASS GROW QUICKLY!

NO BOTHER WITH THESE MINI LAWNMOWER BOOTS, THOUGH!
BRRR!

AARGH! REF!
BRRR!


THESE ARE BRILLIANT!
But —
HAR-HAR!
EH?
PULL!
AAARRGH! CAN'T STOP!
ZOOM!
OOF! USELESS BOOTS!
G-GULP! THESE MINI LAWNMOWER BOOTS ARE DANGEROUS!
OFF!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
TIME FOR MY LATEST INVENTION!
TUG!
TURBO-POWERED FOOTWEAR!
BAH!

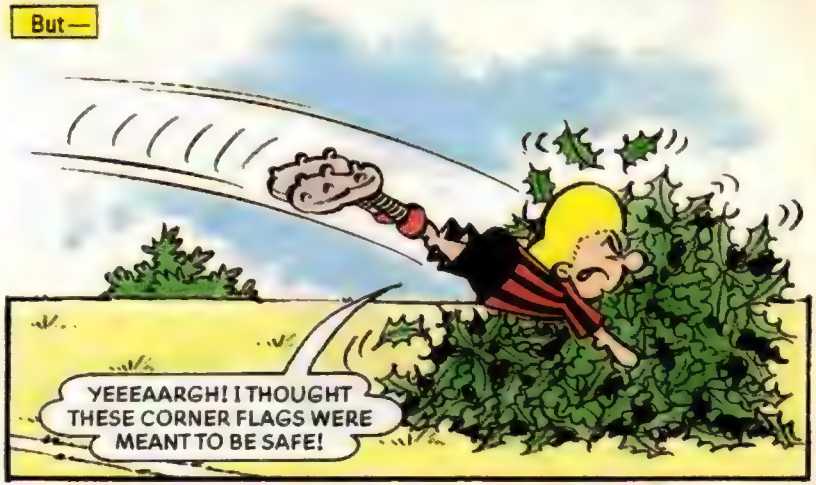

BALL BOY turns the floodlight on — the Groundsman
The groundsman is so fond of his turf — he knows every blade of grass . . . personally!
'MORNING . . . 'MORNING . . . 'MORNING . . . 'MORNING . . .
He's also very proud of his . . .
PENCIL CASE
. . . straight, white lines!
SPLOSH
The groundsman uses the best health food and nut mixture to feed his grass.
THROW
No birds are even allowed to land on the turf!
GET LOST, BIRDS!
CLAP
In fact, the groundsman's so proud of his perfect grass — we have a real problem on match days!
CLEAR OFF! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DAMAGE MY GRASS!
WAA!
SWING

BALL
BOY

DO YOU NEED ANY FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT, BALL BOY?
FOOTCO SPORTS EQUIPMENT
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

THESE SPRING BACK CORNER FLAGS ARE GREAT FOR SAFETY!
WE'LL TAKE SOME!

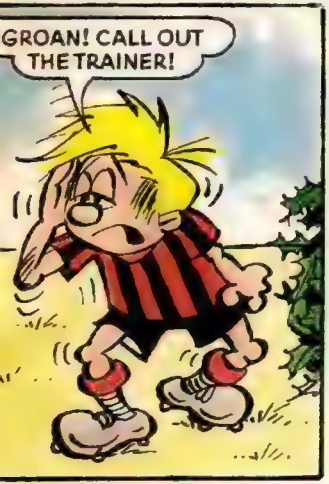
PHEW! THANKS!
GREAT CORNER FLAGS, THESE!


But —
YEEEAARGH! I THOUGHT THESE CORNER FLAGS WERE MEANT TO BE SAFE!

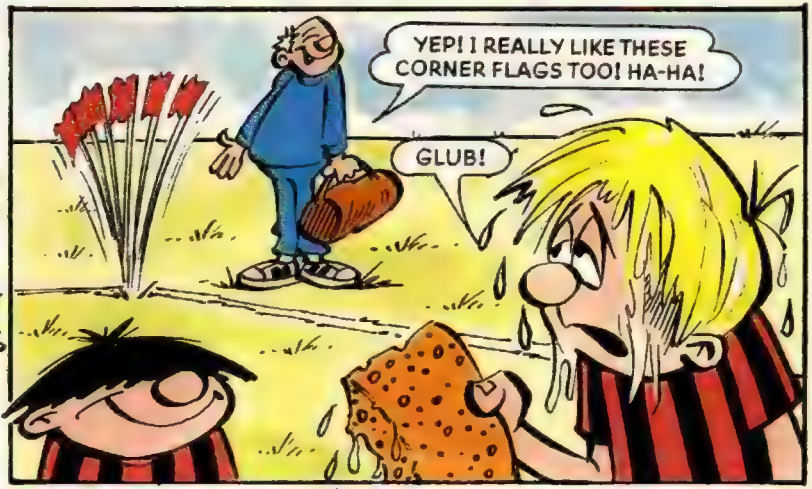
OH-OH! TOO HIGH FOR OUR GOALIE.

GOT TO BE QUICK!

WHEEE!
TWANG!


GROAN! CALL OUT THE TRAINER!

SPLOT!


YEP! I REALLY LIKE THESE CORNER FLAGS TOO! HA-HA!
GLUB!

BALL BOY

HMM. THE OTHER TEAM DON'T SEEM TO HAVE TURNED UP.

WE'LL GIVE YOU A GAME!

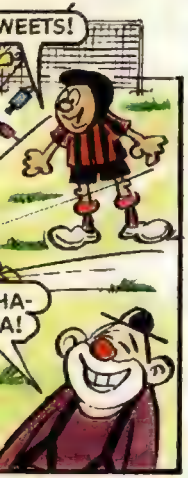
YES!
OH, NO! THEY'VE SCORED!

I'LL GIVE IT A BIG BOOT — YOU RUN UP THE FIELD AND SCORE!
RIGHT!

But —
GASP!
WA
HA

LET'S GO!
CIRCUS
WE'LL USE OUR BALL, OKAY?
CI

So —
COO!


WEETS!
HA-
A!

CHOMP! WE'VE LOST, BUT WHO CARES!
YUM!

But —
HUH! LOOKS LIKE THOSE PESKY CLOWNS HAVE BEEN UP TO THEIR TRICKS WITH THE SHOWERS TOO!
CONFETTI?

BALL
BOY

BRR! IT'S CHILLY STANDING HERE IN THIS GOAL!

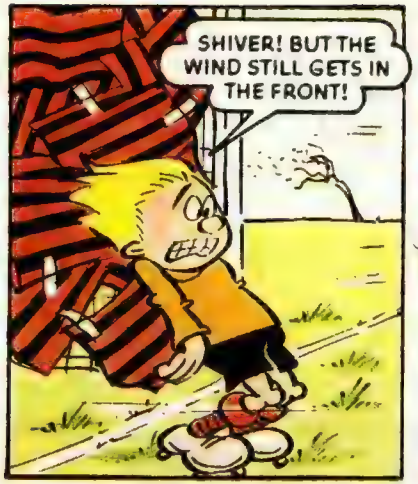
IT'S THOSE HOLES THAT ARE MAKING IT DRAUGHTY!

So —
THESE SPARE FOOTBALL TOPS WILL DO!

But —
OOPS! I FORGOT ABOUT THE GLASS!

HAVE TO OPEN IT FIRST SO I CAN GET OUT!

WHAT A USELESS BIT OF GOALKEEPING!


SHIVER! BUT THE WIND STILL GETS IN THE FRONT!

TROUBLED BY DRAUGHTS? DOUBLE GLAZING IS WHAT YOU NEED!

THIS WILL DO THE TRICK!

THERE IS ONE ADVANTAGE OF A DOUBLE GLAZED GOAL
SEED

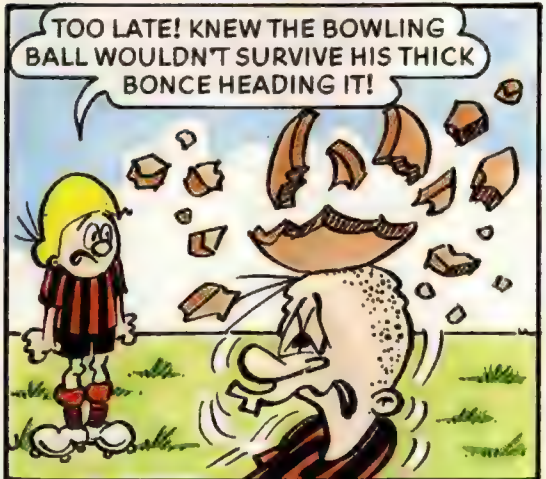
IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN A GREENHOUSE FOR GROWING PLANTS

SO I CAN HIDE FROM MY ANGRY TEAM MATES!
BAH! LOST HIM!

BALL
BOY

RIGHT — BEFORE WE START TRAINING — BOOTS OFF!
WHY, BALL BOY?

BECAUSE OUR ONE AND ONLY BALL'S JUST ABOUT HAD IT!

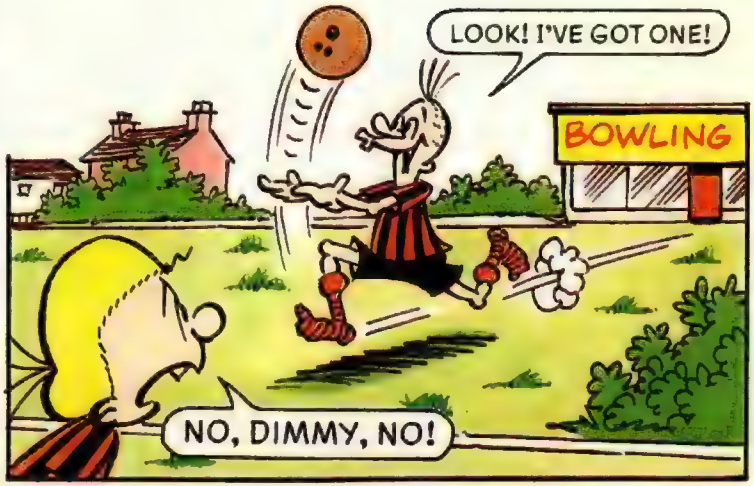

TOO LATE! KNEW THE BOWLING BALL WOULDN'T SURVIVE HIS THICK BONCE HEADING IT!

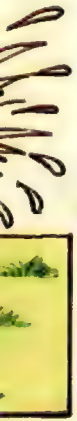
ALL I'VE GOT IS THIS BEACH BALL!

OOPS! STILL SOME SEAWATER IN IT FROM LAST SUMMER!

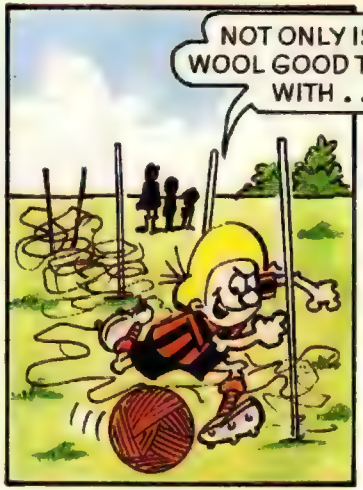
SIGH! THAT'S IT — OUR LAST BALL!
GENTLE TAP!
PHSSS!

I'LL GET A NEW ONE!


LOOK! I'VE GOT ONE!
BOWLING
NO, DIMMY, NO!



YOU CAN USE THIS BIG BALL OF WOOL TO TRAIN WITH IF YOU LIKE!
THANKS, MUM!


NOT ONLY IS THIS WOOL GOOD TO TRAIN WITH . . .

. . . IT ALSO MEANS WE CAN KNIT OUR SUPPORTER A NEW SCARF!

BALL
BOY

GRR! NO TEAM SHOULD GET WHACKED 13-0!
PHWEEP!

Later —
MAYBE I CAN HELP!
EH? BUT HOW?
MOAN

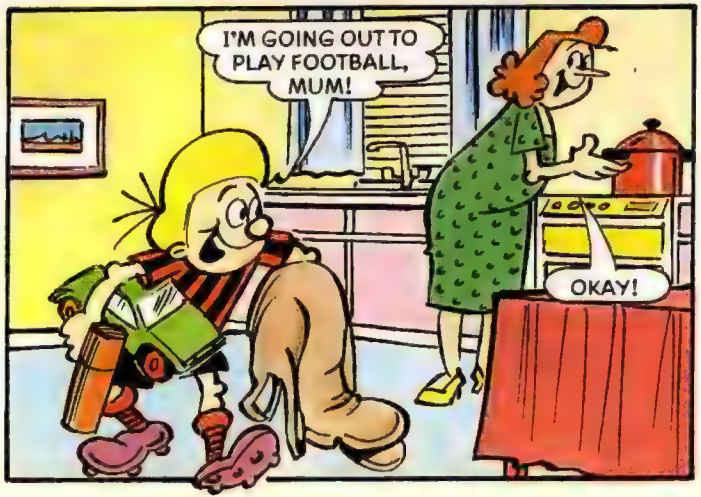
I'M BLOATED!
BURP!

Next —
NOW SING WITH ME — DOH, RAY, ME, FAH, SOH, LAH, TE . . .
DOH RAY
ME FAH
SOH LAH

HEY! HOW'S THIS GOING TO IMPROVE OUR FOOTBALL, COACH?

MY COUSIN IS A TOP COACH IN ITALY AND HE'S STAYING WITH US FOR A HOLIDAY!
GREAT!
So —
FIRST WE BUILD YOU UP!
CHOMP! I LOVE PASTA!
HO-HO! ICE CREAM NEXT!
FOOTBALL? I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FOOTBALL — I'M AN OPERA COACH!
Next game —
PHEW! BEATEN 14-0 THIS TIME!
TODAY WAS WORSE, LOST FOURTEEN — HOW NAUGHTY, BUT WE DON'T CARE, 'COS WE SOUND LIKE PAVAROTTI!
SNIFFLE! FANTASTICO! SUCH VOICES!

What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?



You get TINSELITIS!

BALL
BOY

WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO AN INDOOR MATCH CHALLENGE!

So —
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE?
ICE RINK
YEAH! IT SAYS SO ON THE INVITATION!

So —
THIS IS EASY!
THIS IS USELESS!

WE NEED A "TIME-OUT"!

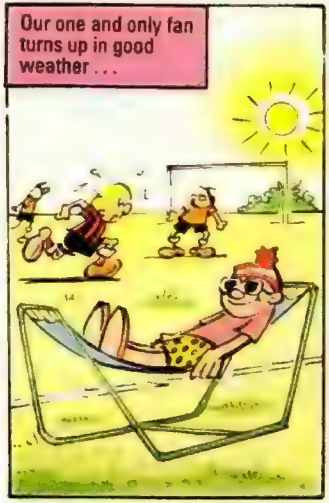
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
FISH
FISH SUPPERS!
EH?

And —
SALT, ANYONE

Inside —
IT'S F-F-FREEZING IN H-H-HERE!
HERE COMES THE OPPOSITION!
HEY! THEY'VE GOT SKATES ON!
YIKES!
RELAX, DIMMY! IT'S ONLY THEIR GOALIE!

YEAH!
ERK! THE SALT'S MELTING THE ICE!
HEY! THE GROUND'S NOT SLIPPY ANY MORE!
WE'RE THE GREATEST!
I'LL TAKE THAT WITH A PINCH OF SALT, DIMMY!

BALL BOY turns the floodlight on —
OUR FAN


Our one and only fan turns up in good weather . . .

. . . Also in bad weather.

Our fan is there if we win.
BALL BOY
TEAM 6
A.C. MILAN 0

He's also there if we . . . ahem — lose!

Our fan is a great booster for our team spirit!
OOPS!

GASP!

YOU CHEAT! YOU PUT 'OUR FAN' THERE EVERY GAME! NO WONDER NO ONE IS DAFT ENOUGH TO FOLLOW US!

BALL BOY

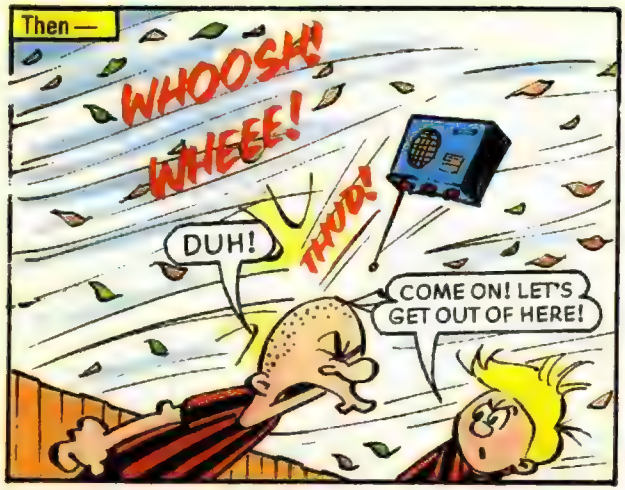
WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHING MORE EXCITING THAN FOOTBALL TODAY?

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAMME TO WARN LISTENERS THAT STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY SHOWERS ARE IMMINENT!

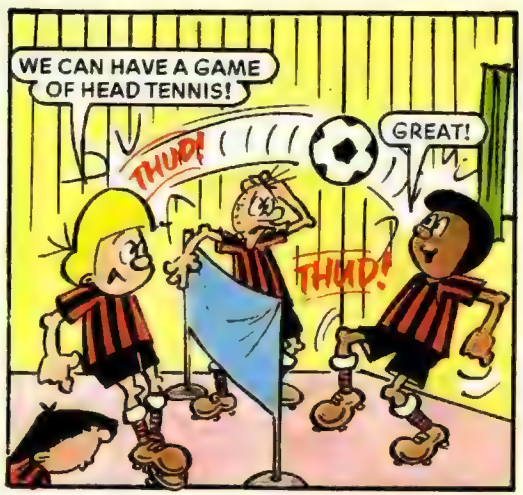
WHAP!
ZOOM
EH? OK!
TO YOU, DIMMY!
OH, NO!

I'LL FETCH THE BALL!
NO, DIMMY!

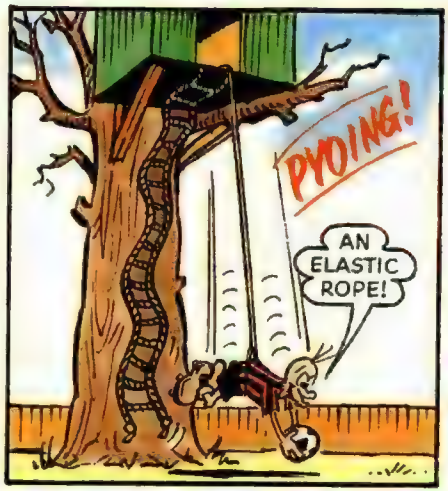
WOW! THE WEATHER MUST BE REALLY BAD!


Then —
WHOOSH!
WHEEE!
THUD!
DUH!
COME ON! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

So —
PHEW! IT'S MUCH BETTER IN HERE!

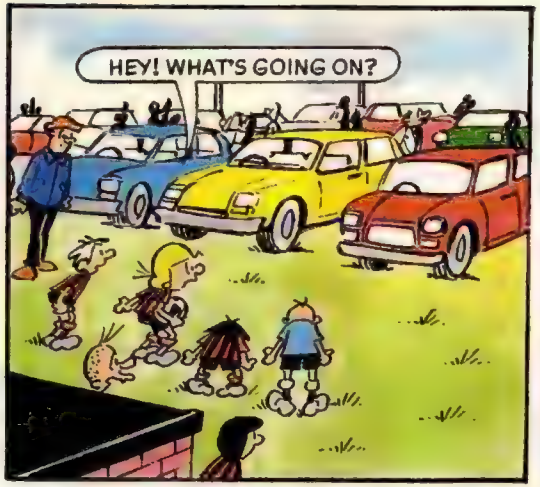

WE CAN HAVE A GAME OF HEAD TENNIS!
THUD!
GREAT!
THUD!

HEY! IT'S STOPPED — WAAAH!
PROP!


PYOING!
AN ELASTIC ROPE!

YOU WERE OUT COLD WHEN WE BROUGHT YOU INTO THE TREE HOUSE!
WHEE! THIS IS GREAT!
THUD!
PYOING!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT YOUR EXCITEMENT AFTER ALL, DIMMY!

BALL
BOY


HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?

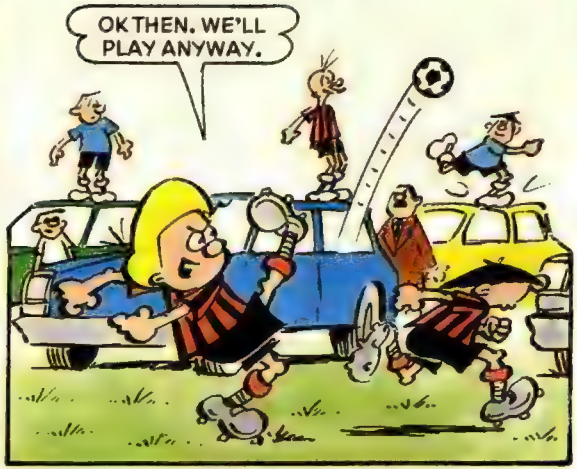
SORRY, SON. WE BOOKED THE PARK FOR A CAR BOOT SALE.
BUT WE ALWAYS PLAY HERE!

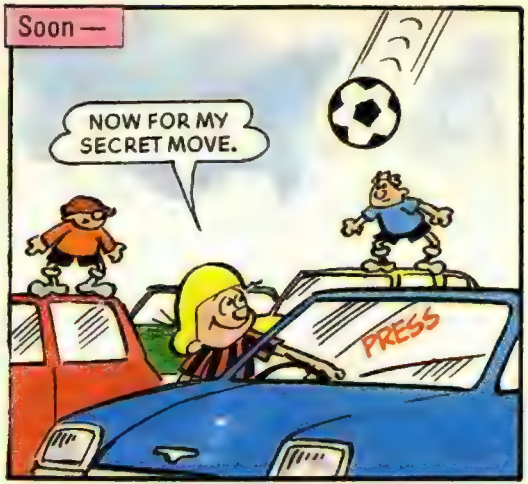
RAISE THE BONNET AND —

— GOAL!

Soon —
A DANGEROUS SHOT!
PRESS

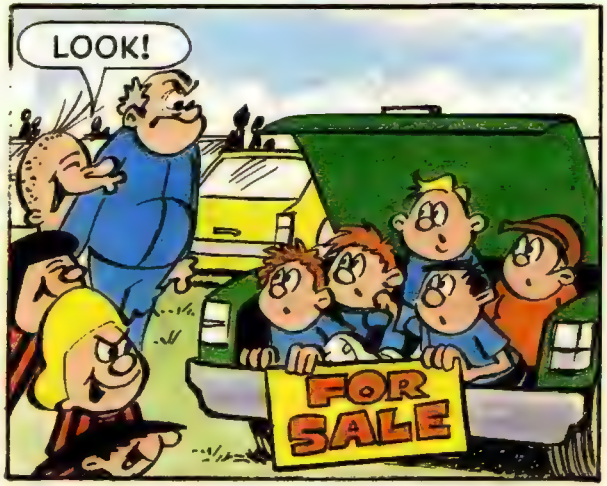
YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE.
NO CHANCE!


OK THEN. WE'LL PLAY ANYWAY.


Soon —
NOW FOR MY SECRET MOVE.
PRESS

NO PROBLEM!
CAR AERIAL

Full time —
THE OTHER SIDE'S MANAGER ISN'T HAPPY THAT HIS TEAM GOT BEATEN.


LOOK!
FOR SALE

BALL
BOY

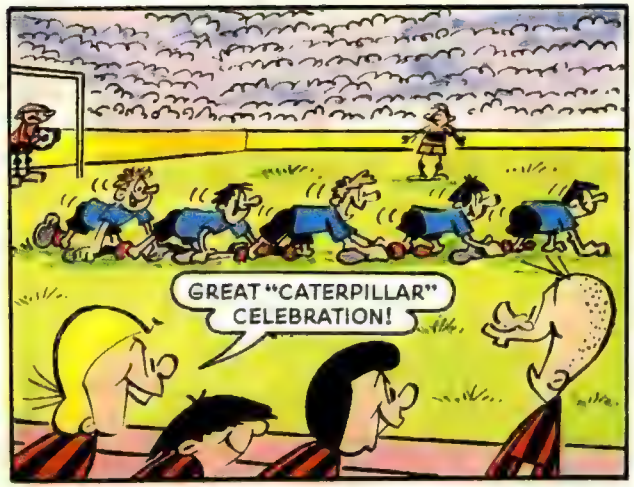
In Mudchester Stadium —
GOAL!

NOW FOR THE CELEBRATION!

OH!

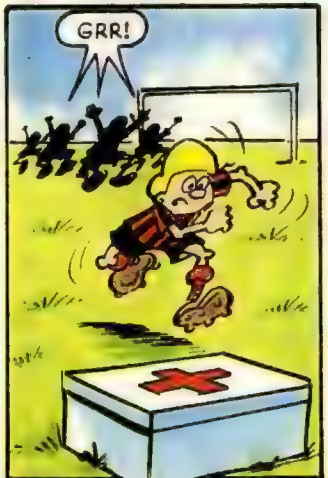
AARGH! AN OWN GOAL!

GULP! I DON'T THINK A "CATERPILLAR" IS QUITE IN ORDER!

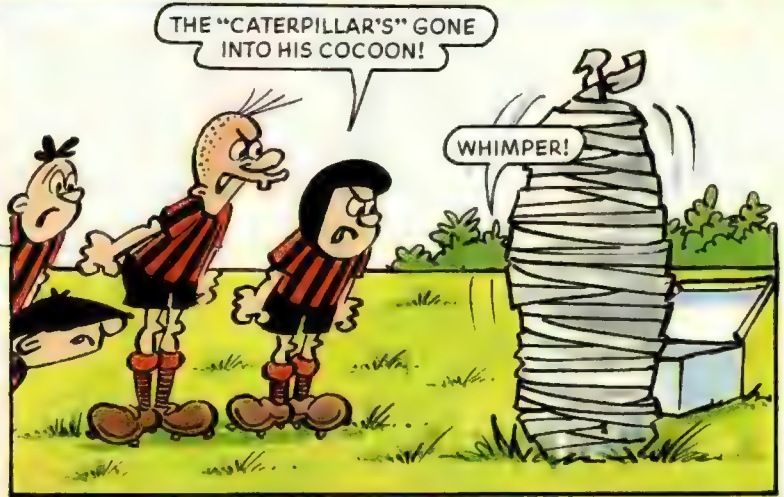

GREAT "CATERPILLAR" CELEBRATION!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY A "CATERPILLAR" THE NEXT TIME WE SCORE!

So, next match —
WHAT A CHANCE!


GRR!

MUST HURRY!


THE "CATERPILLAR'S" GONE INTO HIS COCOON!
WHIMPER!

BALL
BOY

LIBRARY
LET'S GO IN HERE!

Inside —
SOME IDEAL BOOKS HERE, BALL BOY!
SSSH!

YOU LOT HAVE GOT THIRTY SECONDS TO GET OUT OF HERE!
OKAY!

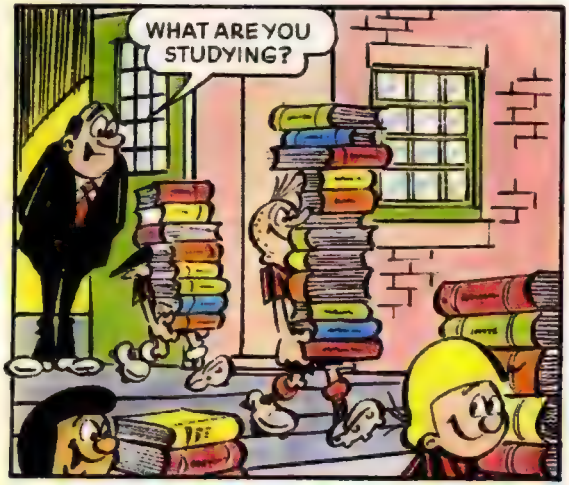
So —
THAT ONE AND THIS ONE, AND . . .

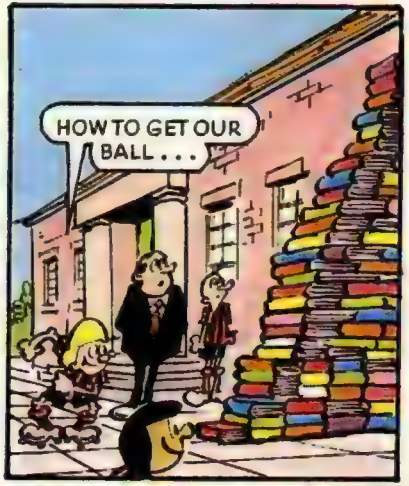
Thirty seconds later —
WELL — I AM IMPRESSED! THESE ARE VERY EDUCATIONAL BOOKS!

YES, THESE WILL DO . . .

YES!
UNITED HAVE SCORED!
OW! DIMMY'S LISTENING TO THE MATCH ON HIS HEADPHONES!

GRR! BE QUIET!
WHAP!


WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING?

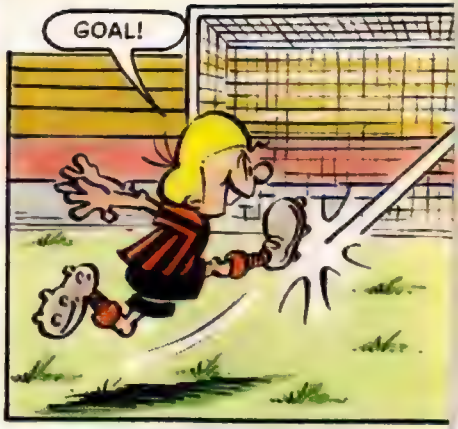

HOW TO GET OUR BALL . . .

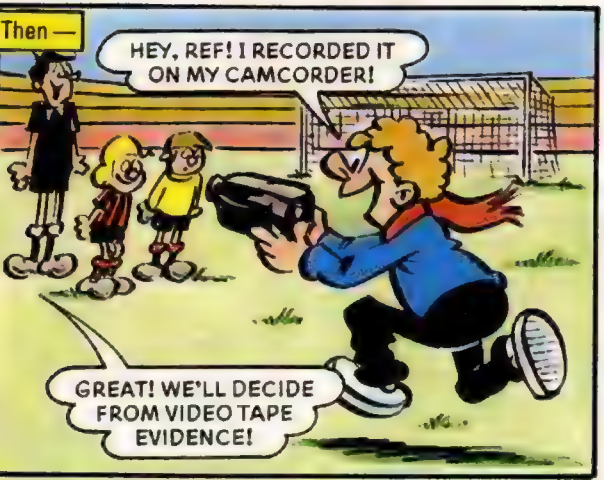
. . . OFF YOUR ROOF! DIMMY KICKED IT UP HERE BY MISTAKE!

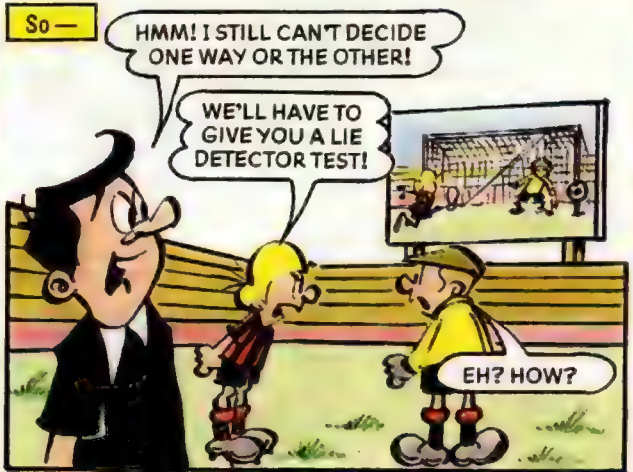
BALL BOY turns the floodlight on —
OUR LAUNDRY WOMAN
WE NEED A GOOD LAUNDRY PERSON BECAUSE OUR STRIPS DO GET A LITTLE MUCKY!
AAGH!
SPLAT
After the game.
LAUNDERETTE
SUDSO
THIS'LL DO THE TRICK.
RETTE
WOW! IT SURE IS SOAPY!
SWOOSH!
GURGLE
Later —
OUR LAUNDRY WOMAN IS ALWAYS VERY BUSY!
GRAB
SIGH!
AHEM! SO BUSY — SHE'S PUT THE THEATRE CLUB'S OUTFITS IN THE BAG INSTEAD OF OUR CLEAN STRIPS!

BALL BOY

Injury time —
GREAT PASS! I'M GOING TO BURST THE NET!


GOAL!


Then —
HEY, REF! I RECORDED IT ON MY CAMCORDER!
GREAT! WE'LL DECIDE FROM VIDEO TAPE EVIDENCE!


So —
HMM! I STILL CAN'T DECIDE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A LIE DETECTOR TEST!
EH? HOW?

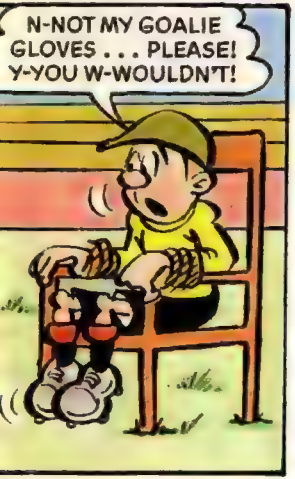
TELL ME THE TRUTH. DID THE BALL CROSS THE LINE?
SNIP! SNIP!

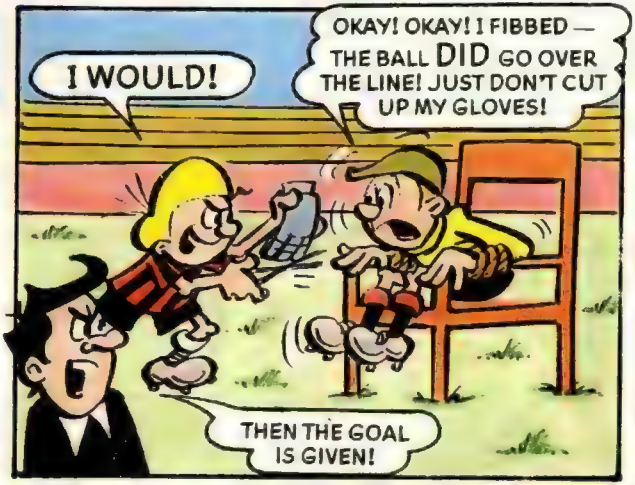
JVC
NO! IT BOUNCED ON THE LINE!

THE BALL DIDN'T CROSS THE LINE!
OH, YES IT DID!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, REF?
ER — NOT SURE. I'LL ASK THE LINESMAN!

But —
SORRY, LADS! I DIDN'T SEE IT!
THE BEANO
HUH!


N-NOT MY GOALIE GLOVES . . . PLEASE! Y-YOU W-WOULDN'T!


I WOULD!
OKAY! OKAY! I FIBBED — THE BALL DID GO OVER THE LINE! JUST DON'T CUT UP MY GLOVES!
THEN THE GOAL IS GIVEN!

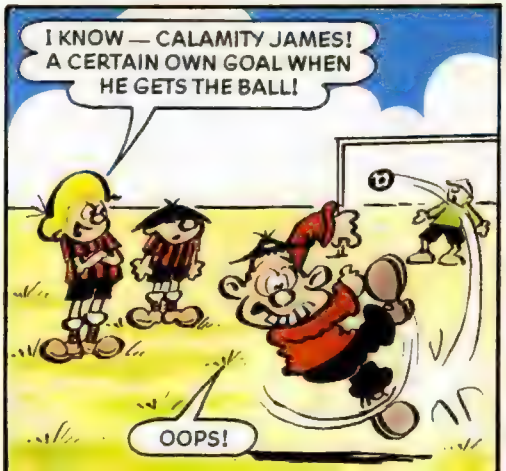
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW!
YOU'D NEVER GUESS IT, BUT THEY STILL LOST 12-1!

BALL BOY

WE'VE BEEN CHALLENGED TO A GAME BY THE REST OF THE BEANO STARS!
BEANO

HEADS OR TAILS?
FLIP

GREAT PASS!
BUT IT'S TO ONE OF THE OTHER TEAM!


I KNOW — CALAMITY JAMES! A CERTAIN OWN GOAL WHEN HE GETS THE BALL!
OOPS!

BILLY WHIZZ IS OUR SECRET WEAPON — JUST WATCH HIM GO!

HEY! THIS WAS A FIFTY PENCE WHEN IT WENT UP!
ROGER'S PET CROW PINCHED IT!
YOU COVER BENJY, SMIFFY!
NOT WHAT I MEANT, BUT IT'LL WORK ANYWAY!
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S NOW SEVENTEEN MILES AWAY WITH OUR BALL!
BILLY!
THAT WASN'T A PROBLEM AFTER ALL!
LES VOLUNTEERED TO PRETEND TO BE A BALL!

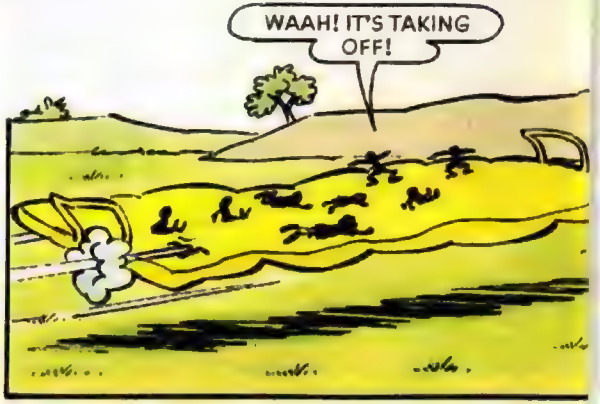
BALL
BOY

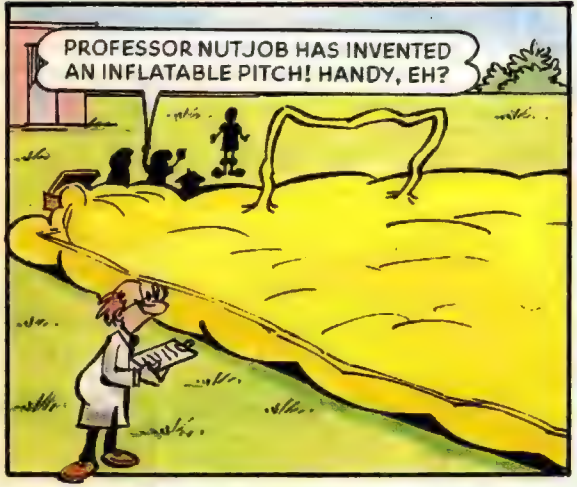
GOING ON HOLIDAY, LADS?
READER
NO!
HEAVE!

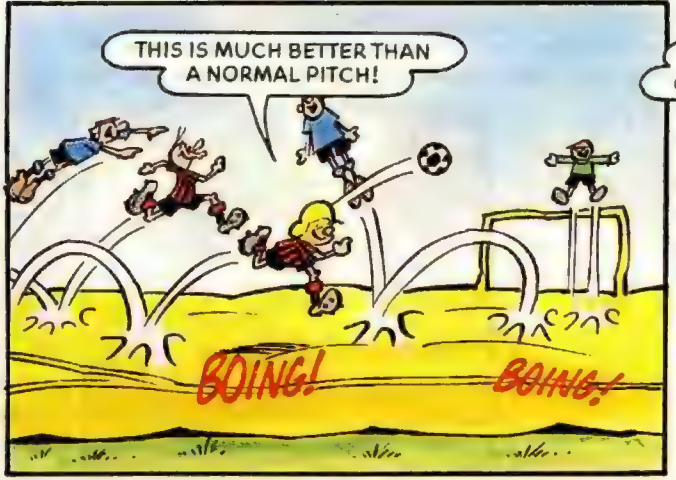
RUN!
CLICK!
FSSSS!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT! I CAN JUMP HIGH TOO!

Then —
YAAH! MISSED ME!
OOPS! I'VE BURST THE PITCH!
BANG!

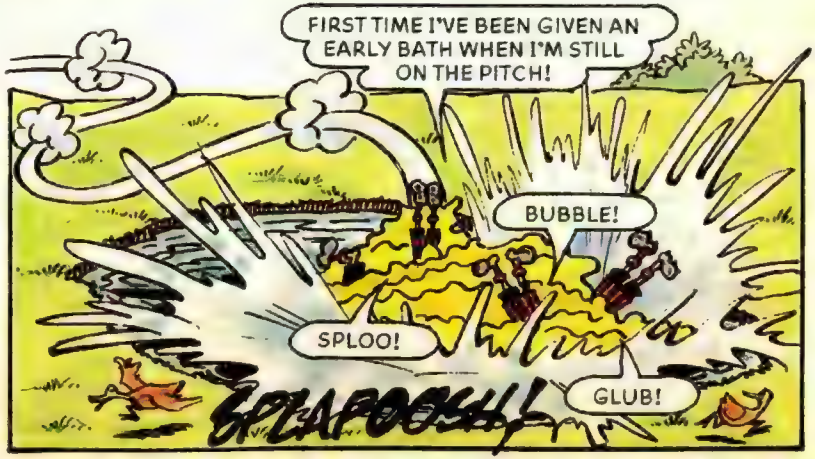

WAAH! IT'S TAKING OFF!


PROFESSOR NUTJOB HAS INVENTED AN INFLATABLE PITCH! HANDY, EH?


THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN A NORMAL PITCH!
BOING!
BOING!

A CERTAIN GOAL! HA-HA!

HEY! THIS IS GREAT!
OO-ER! I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LIKE IT ANY MORE!


FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN GIVEN AN EARLY BATH WHEN I'M STILL ON THE PITCH!
BUBBLE!
SPLOO!
GLUB!
SPLAPOOSH!

BALL BOY

GROAN! WE HAVEN'T WON A MATCH FOR AGES!
EVERY TEAM KNOW OUR MOVES — AND WE GET HAMMERED!
RESULTS
0-12
0-10
0-12

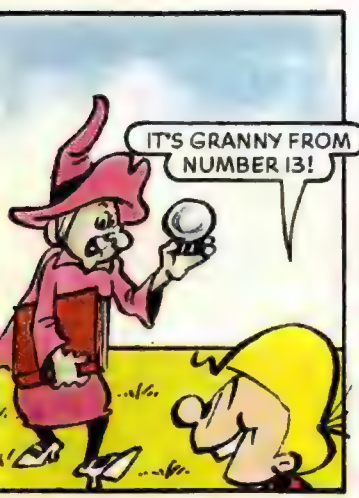
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I'LL HELP YOU!

WOW! SHE'S A WIZARD ON THE BALL!
AHEM! A 'WITCH' TO YOU, SONNY!

I'LL USE ONE OF YOUR SPELLS TO STOP THAT CERTAIN GOAL!
NO! YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE IT.

BLEE, BLAH, BOH, BEE!
THAT'S A SHAPE CHANGING SPELL!
EH?

And —


IT'S GRANNY FROM NUMBER 13!

I CAN LOOK INTO THE FUTURE AND PREDICT THE OTHER TEAM'S MOVES!
BRILLIANT!

So, next game —
THEY'RE GOING TO PASS IT TO THE WINGER!
RIGHT!

GOT TO IT FIRST!

RIBBIT!
RIBBIT!
OO-ER!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THEM BACK . . .
RIBBIT!
CROAK!

And, so —
PHEW! BACK TO NORMAL!
GIGGLE! FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE OTHER TEAM KISSING THE TEAM THAT'S JUST SCORED!
PUCKER!

BALL BOY

HEY! IS HE A NEW SIGNING? HE LOOKS SO FIT AND STRONG.
YES, I DO, DON'T I?

ARE THOSE TWO NEW SIGNINGS TOO?
OH, NOW I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED —

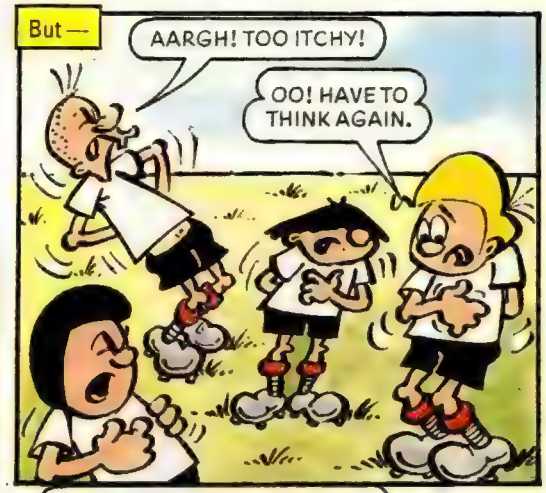
So —
YOU LOT WILL HAVE TO PLAY TOPLESS!
OKAY!

HEY! YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR TOP ON!
YES — I'M VERY MODEST! I'M NOT TAKING IT OFF IN FRONT OF YOU!

GET HIM!

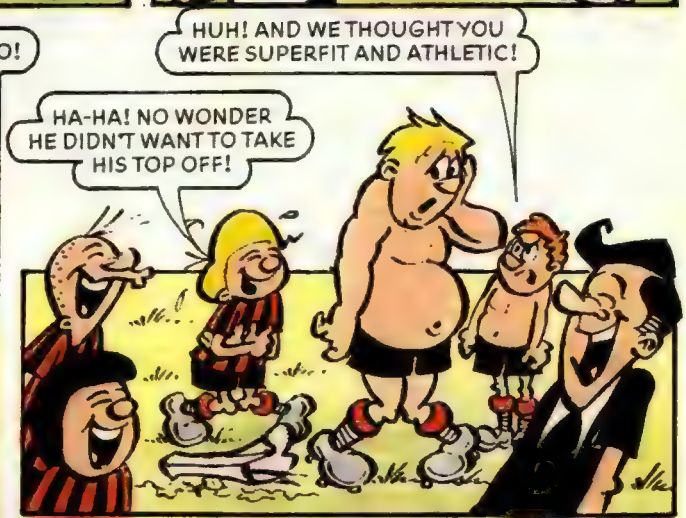
BOTH TEAMS HAVE THE SAME STYLE OF KIT!
ONE OF YOU WILL HAVE TO CHANGE!

WE CAN TURN OUR STRIPS INSIDE OUT!


But —
AARGH! TOO ITCHY!
OO! HAVE TO THINK AGAIN.

Until —
WOO-HOO-HOO!

CAN'T RESIST THIS.
WAAH! NO!
PING
TUG

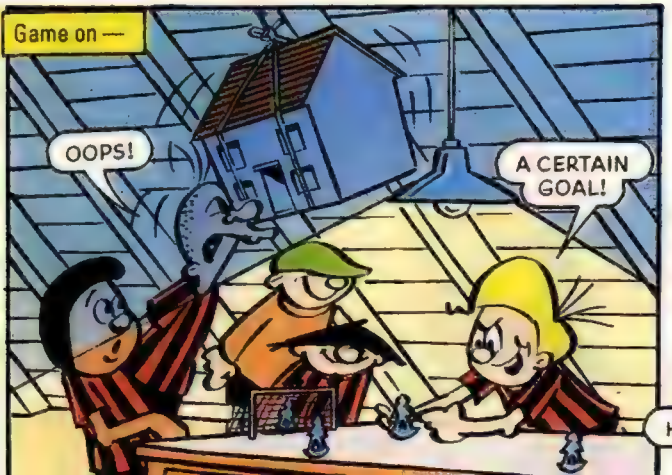

HA-HA! NO WONDER HE DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE HIS TOP OFF!
HUH! AND WE THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPERFIT AND ATHLETIC!

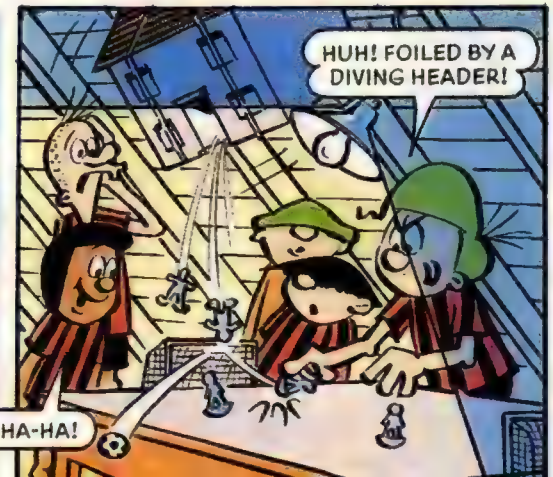
BALL BOY turns the floodlight on —
The FIRST AID TEAM
OUR FIRST AID PEOPLE ARE VERY KEEN!
Suddenly —
AAAA . . .
TISHOO!
Seconds later.
THERE! STAY IN BED FOR A DAY OR TWO!
HUMPH! AT LEAST THE BED IS FILLING THE GOAL!
Later.
AAARGH!
AHA! WE'RE ON AGAIN!
SLIDE
BOM
NOT ONLY HAVE THE FIRST AID TEAM MADE A GREAT JOB OF BANDAGING MY ANKLE . . .
WRAP
. . . THEY'VE IMPROVED MY BALL CONTROL AS WELL! HO-HO!
ZOOM

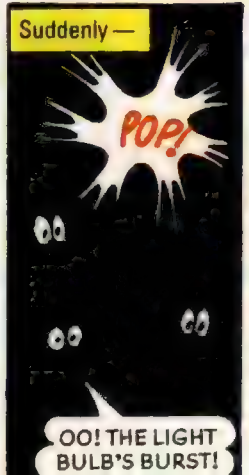
BALL
BOY

THE GAME'S BEEN CANCELLED, BALL BOY! OUR PITCH IS WATERLOGGED.
UP TO MY BEDROOM FOR TABLE FOOTBALL THEN!

But —
YOU'D BETTER PLAY IN THE LOFT — I'M SPRING CLEANING YOUR ROOM.

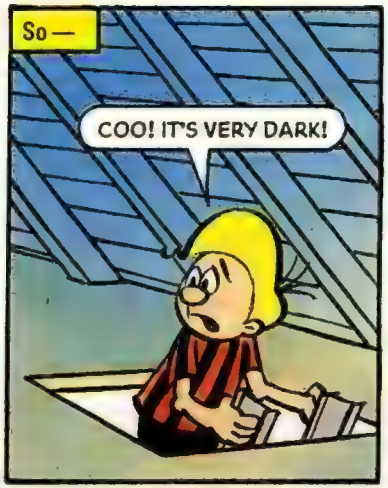

Game on —
OOPS!
A CERTAIN GOAL!


HUH! FOILED BY A DIVING HEADER!
HA-HA!


Suddenly —
POP!
OO! THE LIGHT BULB'S BURST!

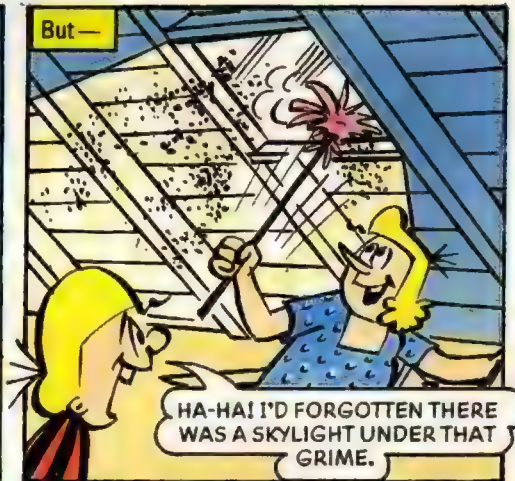
Then —

THE LOFT? I HAVEN'T BEEN UP THERE FOR YEARS.


So —
COO! IT'S VERY DARK!

THAT'S BETTER! I'LL MARK OUT A PITCH IN THE DUST OF THIS OLD TABLE.
CLICK!

USE THIS!
OH, NO! MUM'S MAKING US SPRING CLEAN THE LOFT.


But —
HA-HA! I'D FORGOTTEN THERE WAS A SKYLIGHT UNDER THAT GRIME.

EVERY CLUB NEEDS A GOOD GROUNDSMAN — ER — GROUNDSLADY!

BALL BOY

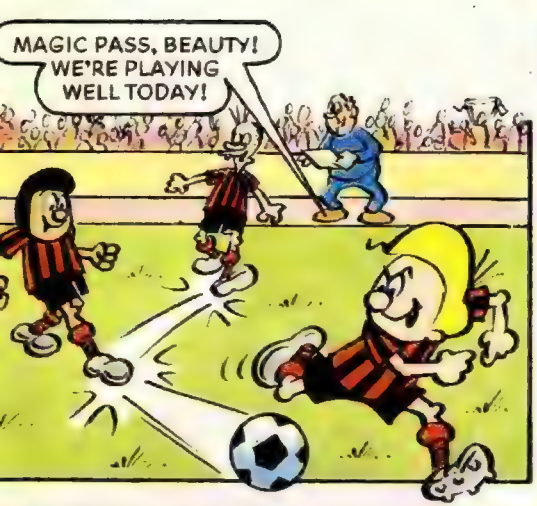
GOOD CROWD TODAY!

HE MUST BE A TOP COACH FOR A BIG CLUB, HERE TO WATCH US!

SIGH! HE MUST KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!
RIGHT THIS TIME!

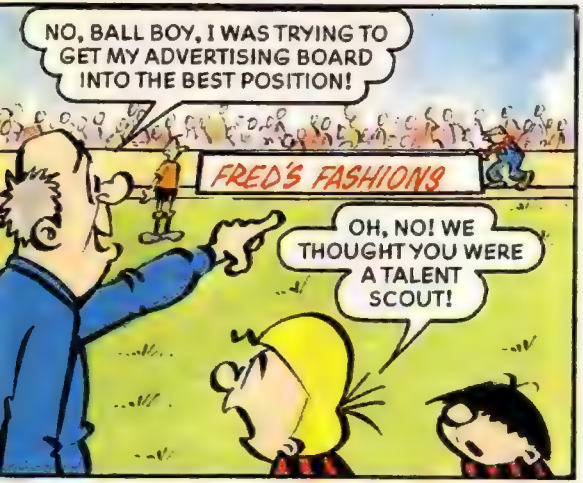
THIS WAY! THAT'S IT! ALONG THE TOUCHLINE!
WHAT NOW, MISTER?

EH? I WASN'T SPEAKING TO YOU!
BUT YOU WERE GIVING US ALL THOSE TACTICS AND INSTRUCTIONS!


MAGIC PASS, BEAUTY! WE'RE PLAYING WELL TODAY!

WHAT A CHANCE!

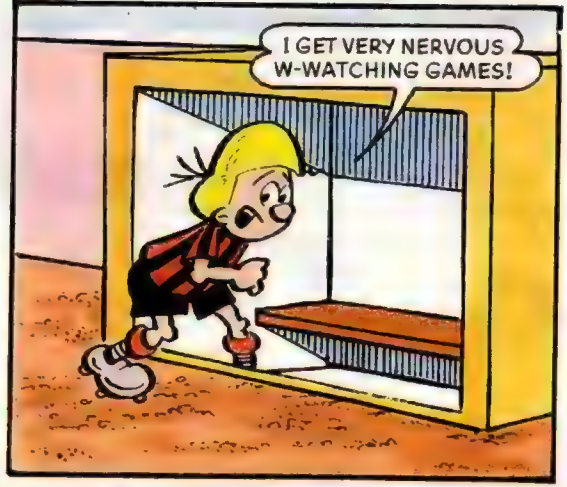
NO! NO! TO THE LEFT!
EH?


NO, BALL BOY, I WAS TRYING TO GET MY ADVERTISING BOARD INTO THE BEST POSITION!
FRED'S FASHIONS
OH, NO! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A TALENT SCOUT!

But—
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT WE WERE TALENTED AFTER ALL . . .

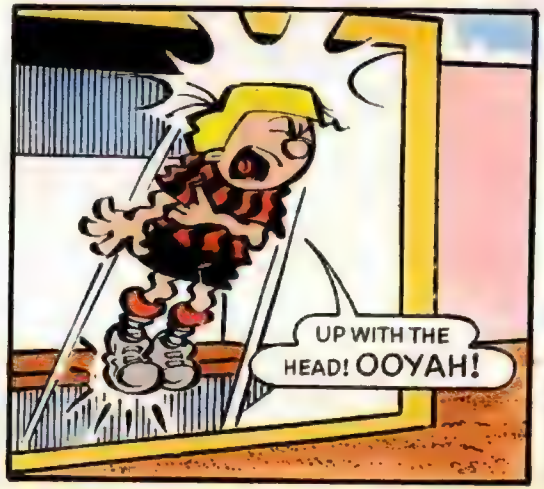
. . . HE WANTED US TO APPEAR IN ONE OF HIS ADS! COOL!
YOU BOYS CAN KEEP THE GEAR!
BE A REAL HOT-SHOT IN FRED'S FASHIONS

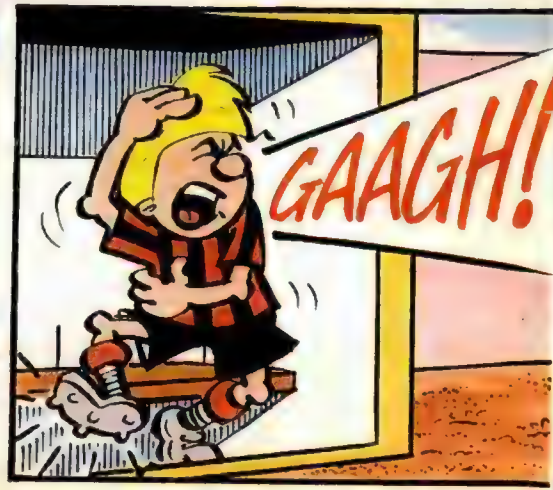
BALL
BOY

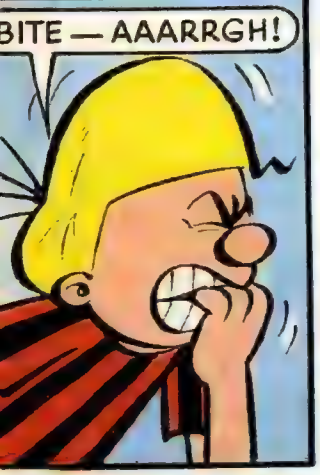

I GET VERY NERVOUS W-WATCHING GAMES!

C-C-COME ON, L-LADS!

THAT'S IT, BENJY!

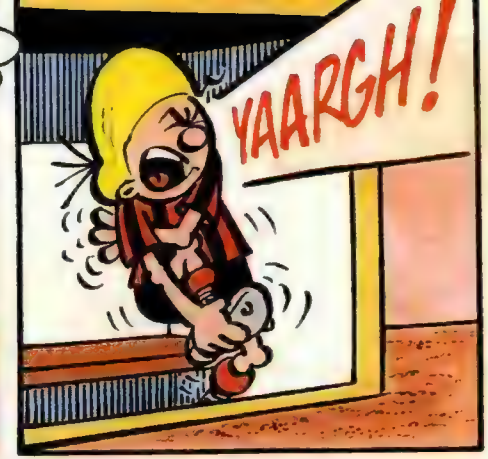

UP WITH THE HEAD! OOYAH!


GAAGH!


BITE — AAARRGH!

SCREAM!

TACKLE HIM!
OUCH!


YAARGH!

OO! OUCH!
YOWL!
WHY WEREN'T YOU PLAYING, TODAY, BALL BOY?
READER

BECAUSE WE'RE PLAYING CLOGGERS UNITED AND OUR COACH DIDN'T WANT ME TO PICK UP AN INJURY FOR NEXT WEEK'S CUP GAME!

BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST A TEAM OF ACTORS TODAY!
TWO NIL OR NOT TOO NIL . . .

The game starts —
READY . . . ACTION!
FIRST HALF

YES — YOU'VE MADE ME SMUDGE MY MAKE-UP!

I'D LIKE MY STAND IN TO TAKE THE FREE KICK!

And —
HURRAH!

GOT PAST HIM EASILY!

AARGH!
EH?

FREE KICK!
BUT I DIDN'T TOUCH HIM!

WHAT A GOAL!

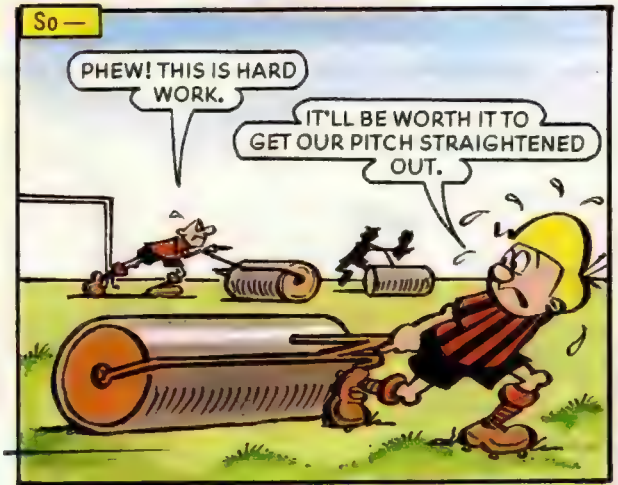
I DON'T MIND LOSING TO A GOAL LIKE THAT . . .

The game ends one nil —
I'D LIKE TO THANK THE SUPPORTING CAST, MY MUM, THE BUDGIE, BLAH . . .
. . . IT'S THE AWARD CEREMONY AFTERWARDS THAT I CAN'T STAND!

BALL BOY

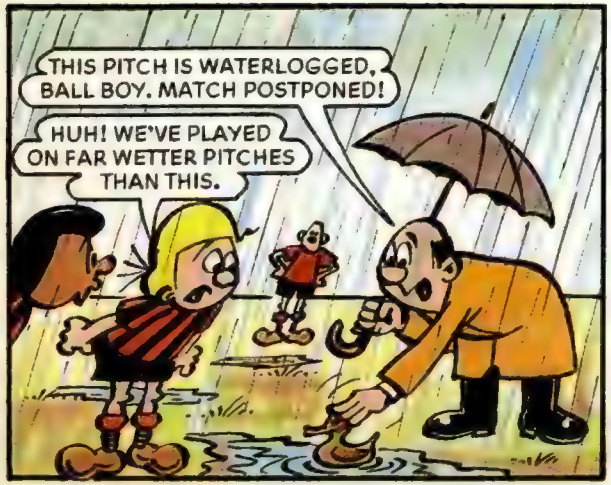
During the warm-up —
THIS RAIN MAKES THE PITCH BRILLIANT FOR GREAT SLIDING TACKLES!

OH, NO! TODAY'S REFEREE IS MISTER FUSSY.
GOSH! WHAT'S HE DOING IN THAT GEAR?


So —
PHEW! THIS IS HARD WORK.
IT'LL BE WORTH IT TO GET OUR PITCH STRAIGHTENED OUT.

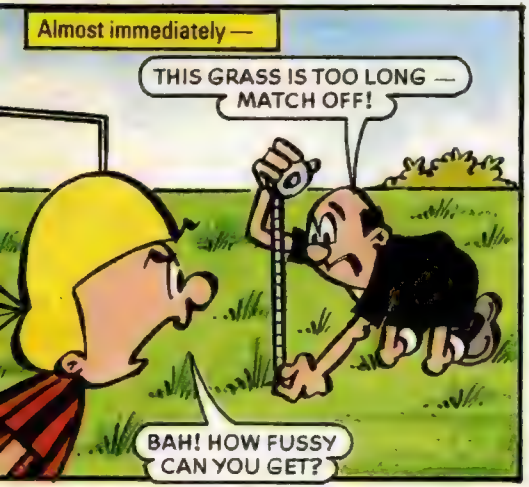
HMM . . . IT'S LEVEL, BUT THERE'S NOT ENOUGH GRASS ON THE PLAYING SURFACE.
OH, NO!

So —
I HOPE THIS FAST-GROWING SEED DOES THE TRICK.

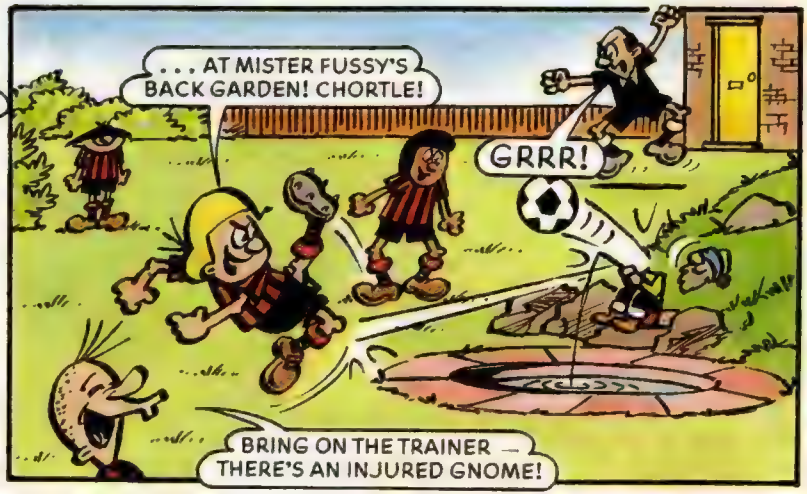

THIS PITCH IS WATERLOGGED, BALL BOY. MATCH POSTPONED!
HUH! WE'VE PLAYED ON FAR WETTER PITCHES THAN THIS.

Next day —
THE PITCH IS DRY TODAY, REF.
HMM.

THE PITCH IS TOO BUMPY FOR SAFE PLAY!
SIGH! NOW WE KNOW HOW MISTER FUSSY GOT HIS NAME.


Almost immediately —
THIS GRASS IS TOO LONG — MATCH OFF!
BAH! HOW FUSSY CAN YOU GET?

WE'VE FOUND A PERFECT PLAYING SURFACE AT LAST . . .


. . . AT MISTER FUSSY'S BACK GARDEN! CHORTLE!
GRRR!
BRING ON THE TRAINER — THERE'S AN INJURED GNOME!

BALL
BOY

THIS IS MY COUSIN TINY! HE WANTS A GAME!
GREAT! WE NEED A BIG FORWARD.

So —
THAT WAS A PASS TO YOU, YOU TWIT!

Next game —
BRILLIANT! YOU'VE PUT US INTO THE CUP FINAL!

At the final —
YES! ANOTHER LAST MINUTE GOAL! WE'VE WON THE CUP!

Later —
OOPS! HAVE TO TIE MY BOOTLACE.
GROAN! HE'S USELESS!
MAYBE NOT! HE'S SCORED!
YOU MIGHT BE OF SOME USE TO US AFTER ALL.
Later —
HMM! WE SHOULD AWARD TINY IN SOME WAY.
FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
PELE McBAGGIO WINS GOLDEN BOOT
And —
WE AWARD YOU THE GOLDEN BOT AWARD!
HA-HA!

BALL
BOY

THE OPPOSITION PROBABLY WON'T EVEN TURN UP AFTER ALL THAT RAIN LAST NIGHT!

Then —
YIKES!
WE'RE ALREADY HERE!

EASY!
WE'RE HELPLESS!
GREAT GOAL!
CHORTLE!

WE'LL BE HAMMERED IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!

So —
THAT'S IT! OPEN THE DRAIN COVER!

YOUR TEAM CAN SIT IN THAT BOAT!
So —
PHWEEP!
And —
Y-E-S-! NOW IT'S THEM WHO ARE HELPLESS!
But!
BAH! THE CLEVER CLOGS HAVE TURNED THEIR BREATHING EQUIPMENT INTO BLOW FOOTBALL TUBES!
HEH! BLOW!

BALL
BOY

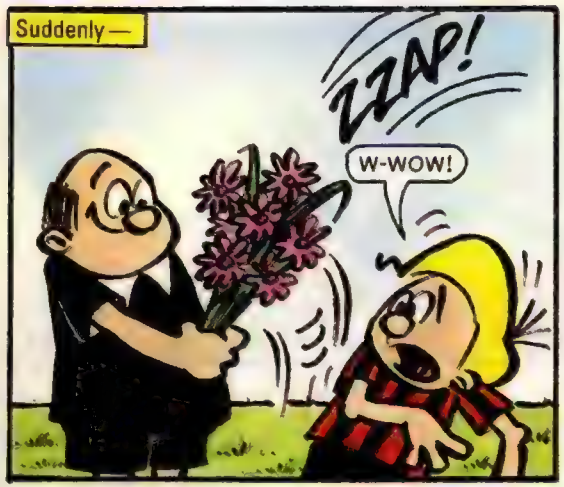
OFFSIDE!
EH?

YOU'RE JOKING!

Later —
WE'VE WON A CORNER!

But —
YERK! A RABBIT!
ZAP!

J-JUST MANAGED TO MISS IT!


Suddenly —
ZZAP!
W-WOW!

NO OFFENCE!

PESKY LINESMAN THINKS HE'S A MAGICIAN!

YOU IDIOT!

Then —
RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH!
PHWEEP!

SIGH! THE REF THINKS HE'S A MAGICIAN TOO!
PICK A CARD — ANY CARD!

BALL BOY

After school —
CHOMP! BALL BOY AND HIS MATES ARE FOOTBALL CRAZY — THEY'RE ALWAYS PLAYING!

AARGH! I WAS ENJOYING THAT CREAM CAKE!
OOPS! SORRY, FATS MCDUFF!

DON'T YOU EVER THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE APART FROM FOOTBALL?
DON'T YOU EVER THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE APART FROM FOOD?

YOU COULDN'T LAST A SINGLE DAY WITHOUT KICKING A BALL!
I BET YOU I COULD!

OKAY — IF YOU DON'T TOUCH A FOOTBALL FOR 24 HOURS, I'LL GO ON A DIET!
BONG!
IT'S A DEAL!

BENJY, I WANT YOU TO BE MY MINDER! THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY FOR ME!
I'LL MAKE SURE B.B. LOSES!

THE FIRST THING TO DO IS REMOVE ALL THE BALLS FROM YOUR HOUSE!
GOOD IDEA!

HEY! THAT'S A DUMPLING — NOT A FOOTBALL, BENJY!
WE CAN'T RISK IT! YOU MIGHT START DRIBBLING IT ROUND THE DINNER TABLE!

Later on —
OH-OH! MY FEET ARE SHAKING! THEY WANT ME TO KICK A BALL!
BONG!
ONLY 23 HOURS TO GO!

WE'VE GOT TO AVOID FOOTBALL PITCHES!
PHEW!

Later —
HEY! KICK THE BALL BACK, BALL BOY!
OKAY!
OH-OH!

WOW! THANKS, BENJY!
MMFF! THAT'S WHAT MINDERS ARE FOR!

BAH! IT COST ME SIX STICKS OF CHEWING GUM TO GET THOSE BOYS TO KICK THE BALL TO HIM!

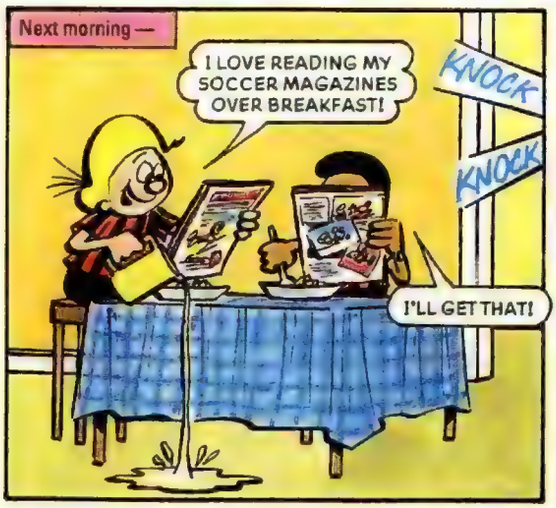
That night —
I'M STAYING THE NIGHT AT B.B.'S HOUSE IN CASE HE SLEEPWALKS TO THE FOOTBALL GROUND!
ONLY 19 HOURS TO GO! YAWN!

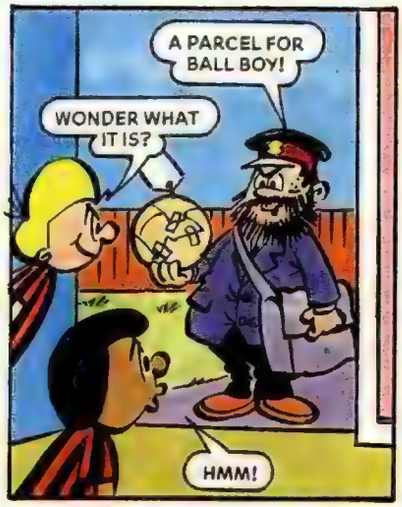
EEK! I'VE TURNED INTO A BAR FOOTBALLER!
ZZZ!

OH, NO! FATS MCDUFF'S CONTROLLING THE BARS AND THAT BALL IS COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!
ZZZ!

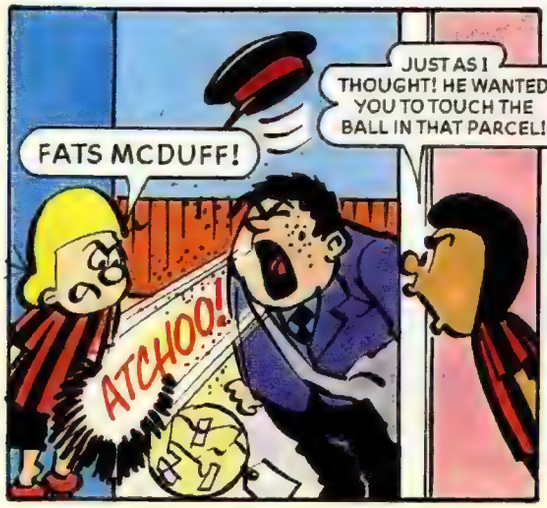
YIKES! I'M FEELING DIZZY!
ZZZ!

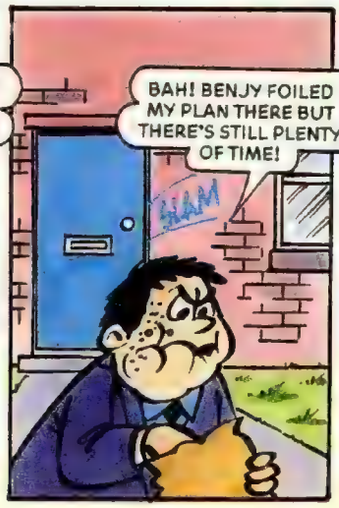
WAAH – OH, PHEW! THANK GOODNESS PILLOWS DON'T COUNT!

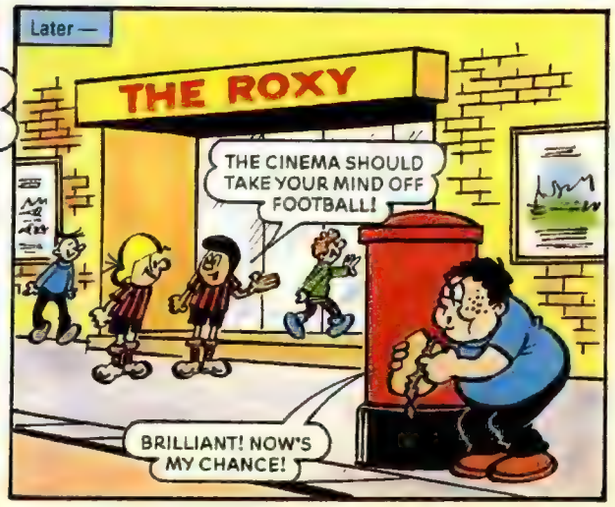

Next morning —
I LOVE READING MY SOCCER MAGAZINES OVER BREAKFAST!
KNOCK
KNOCK
I'LL GET THAT!


A PARCEL FOR BALL BOY!
WONDER WHAT IT IS?
HMM!

BENJY!
LET'S SEE IF POSTIE LIKES PEPPER!

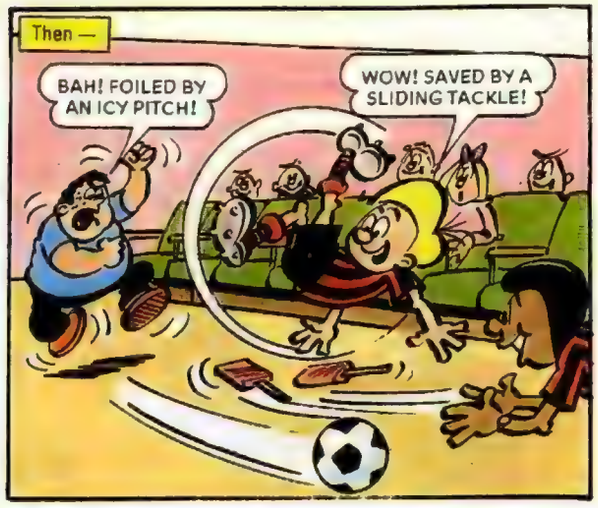

FATS MCDUFF!
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HE WANTED YOU TO TOUCH THE BALL IN THAT PARCEL!
ATCHOO!

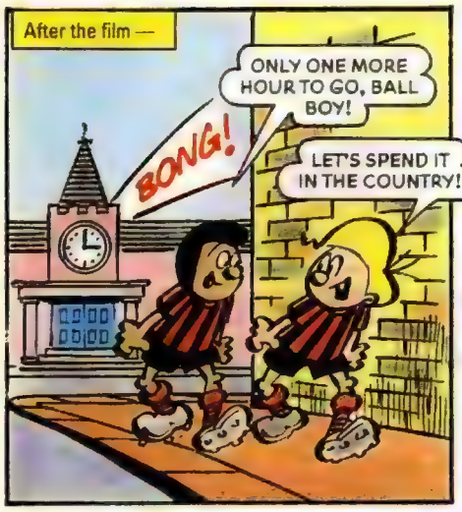

BAH! BENJY FOILED MY PLAN THERE BUT THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF TIME!
WAM


Later —
THE ROXY
THE CINEMA SHOULD TAKE YOUR MIND OFF FOOTBALL!
BRILLIANT! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

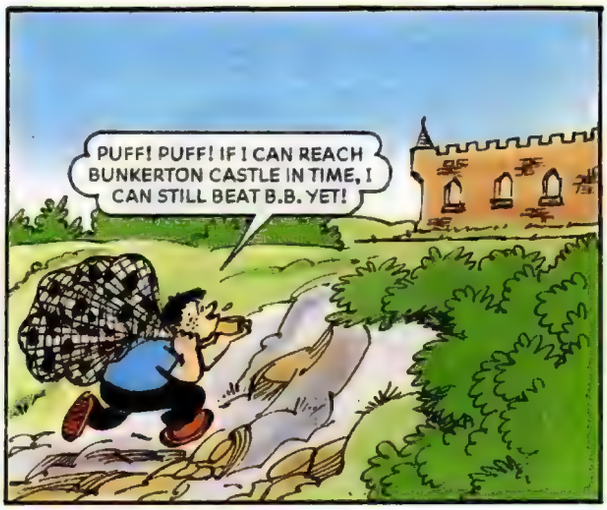
Inside —
I'LL GET THE ICE LOLLIES!
OKAY!

PSST! SHOOT, BALL BOY!
I CAN'T HELP IT! MY FEET ARE BALL HUNGRY!


Then —
BAH! FOILED BY AN ICY PITCH!
WOW! SAVED BY A SLIDING TACKLE!

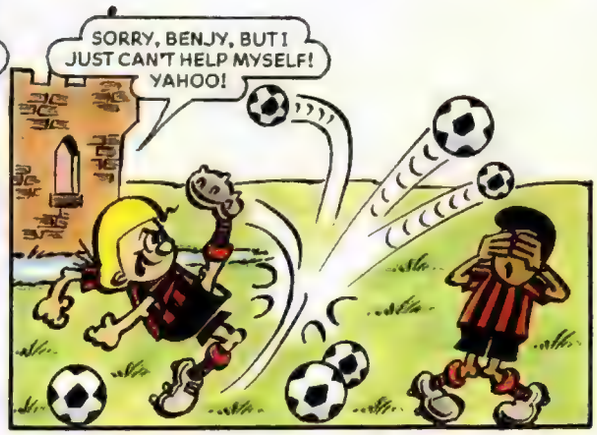

After the film —
ONLY ONE MORE HOUR TO GO, BALL BOY!
BONG!
LET'S SPEND IT IN THE COUNTRY!

Not far behind —
HMM! THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE!


PUFF! PUFF! IF I CAN REACH BUNKERTON CASTLE IN TIME, I CAN STILL BEAT B.B. YET!

Soon —
LOOK! BUNKERTON CASTLE CLOCK SAYS IT'S FIVE TO FOUR!
YOU'VE ONLY GOT FIVE MINUTES TO LAST!

Suddenly —
WAAH! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
WOW! A FOOTBALL SHOWER!


SORRY, BENJY, BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF! YAHOO!

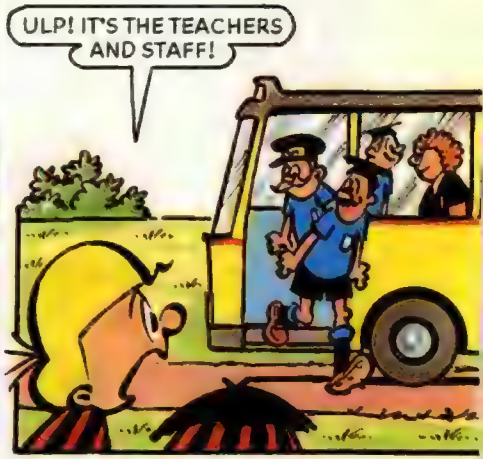
TOUGH LUCK! FIVE MORE MINUTES AND YOU WOULD HAVE WON!
HOLD ON, CHUMS!
Lord Snooty

THAT CLOCK HAS BEEN TEN MINUTES SLOW EVER SINCE YOU HIT IT WITH A STRAY SHOT, BALL BOY!
OH, NO!
HEY! LORD SNOOTY IS RIGHT!

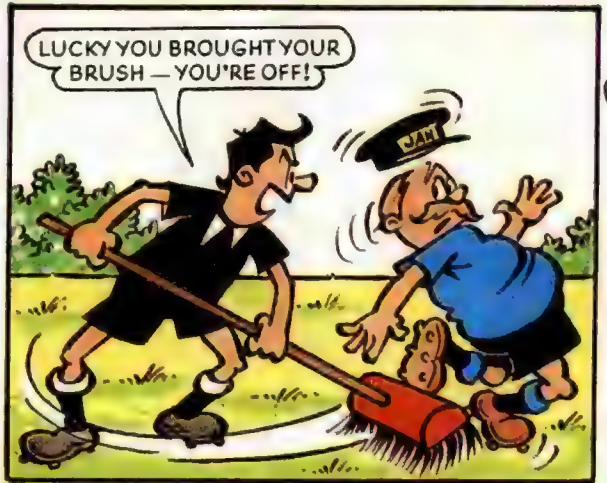
NOTHING BUT RAW CARROTS FOR YOU NOW!
GULP!
I'M ON A STRICT DIET OF FOOTBALL FOR THE REST OF THE DAY!

BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING A SCHOOL SELECT TODAY.


ULP! IT'S THE TEACHERS AND STAFF!

I'LL GET YOU YET!
FOUL!


LUCKY YOU BROUGHT YOUR BRUSH — YOU'RE OFF!
CAP

OH-OH! SHE'S ABOUT TO RING THE BELL FOR FULL TIME. I'VE GOT TO SCORE A LATE WINNER!

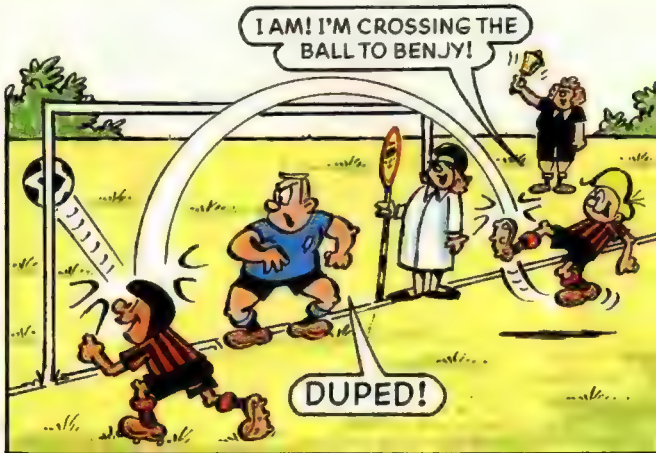
PHEW! THEY'RE A LOT BIGGER THAN US!
I KNOW!

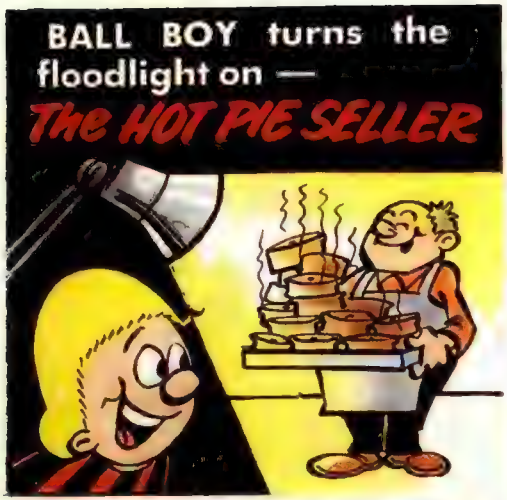
BUT THEY'RE A LOT SLOWER!

BAH! MY HEAVY KEYS ARE SLOWING ME DOWN!
JANIT

DON'T WORRY — I'LL STOP HIM FROM SCORING!
PHEEP!
TIME FOR OUR SECRET WEAPON!

But —
READ THE SIGN, GOALIE! B.B. IS CROSSING!
NO HE'S NOT!
STOP
CHILDREN CROSSING


I AM! I'M CROSSING THE BALL TO BENJY!
DUPED!


BALL BOY turns the floodlight on —
The HOT PIE SELLER

HUP!
LEAP
JUMP
YOUR BALL, BENJY!

But—
YUM!
WHEE
DROOL!

THE PIE SELLER IS HERE!
HOT PIES
THUD

Soon—
THERE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE PLENTY OF THROW-INS FROM WHICH EVER SIDE THE VAN'S ON!

I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FAST MOVING PLAY OF THE FIRST HALF . . .
PHEEP!

. . . BECAUSE WHENEVER THE PIE SELLER'S AROUND, THE SECOND HALF'S PLAYED AT A SLOWER PACE!
BURP!
GASP!
SOLD OUT
PHEW!
CRAWL

BALL BOY

SIGH! A GOAL!
WE'RE PLAYING THE WORST TEAM IN THE LEAGUE.

HO-HUM! THIS IS TOO EASY!

A minute to go —
WE'VE WON A PENALTY! YOU TAKE IT!
ER . . .

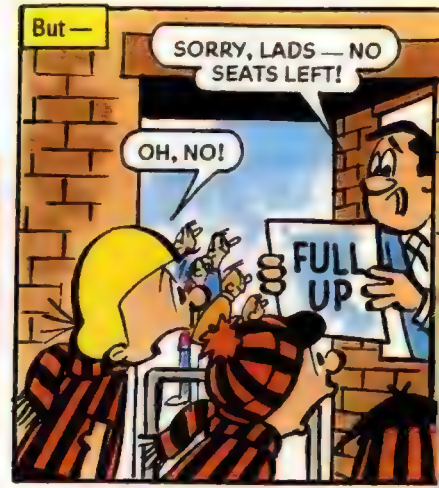
So —
ULP! THAT'S HEADING FOR THE CORNER FLAG!

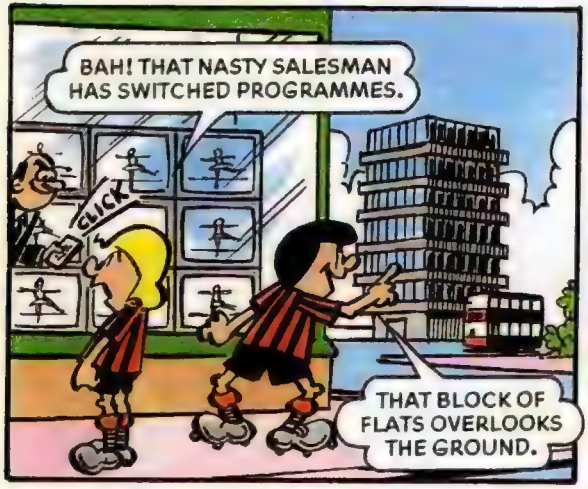
REBOUND

ANYONE NOT SCORED YET?
ME! ME! I HAVEN'T SCORED!
But —
OOPS!
DIMMY'S USELESS!
And —
OH, DEAR! MISSED AGAIN!
OO-ER!
DIMMY'S SCORED AN OWN GOAL!
I DON'T MIND — IT'S STILL A GOAL!
YES, AND THAT'S THE FIRST GOAL WE'VE HAD ALL SEASON!
LET'S CELEBRATE!
HA-HA! EVERYONE IS HAPPY FOR ONCE — WE STILL WON 100-1!

BALL
BOY

UNITED ARE IN THE CUP FINAL TODAY!
PHEW! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THE QUEUE!


But —
SORRY, LADS — NO SEATS LEFT!
OH, NO!
FULL UP

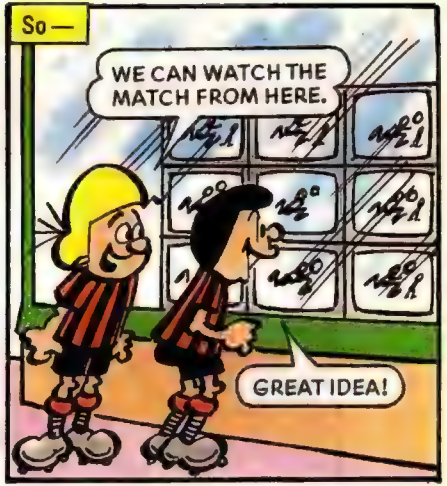

BAH! THAT NASTY SALESMAN HAS SWITCHED PROGRAMMES.
CLICK
THAT BLOCK OF FLATS OVERLOOKS THE GROUND.

GROAN! WE'RE SO HIGH UP, WE'RE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!

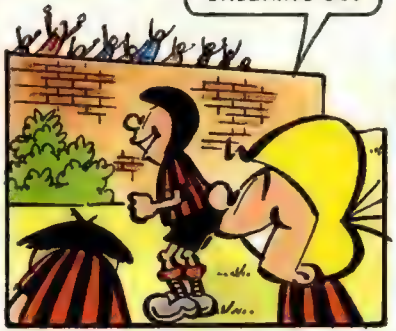
WE MIGHT AS WELL PLAY NEXT TO THE STADIUM OURSELVES. NO CHANCE OF GETTING IN.

WE CAN WATCH IT ON TV IN MY HOUSE.
GREAT IDEA!
POP
FIZZ
ZYP

But —
THE TELEVISION'S JUST BLOWN UP, BALL BOY!
WE MAY HAVE TO OPERATE!


So —
WE CAN WATCH THE MATCH FROM HERE.
GREAT IDEA!

CHEER!
SOMEONE MUST HAVE SCORED TOO!

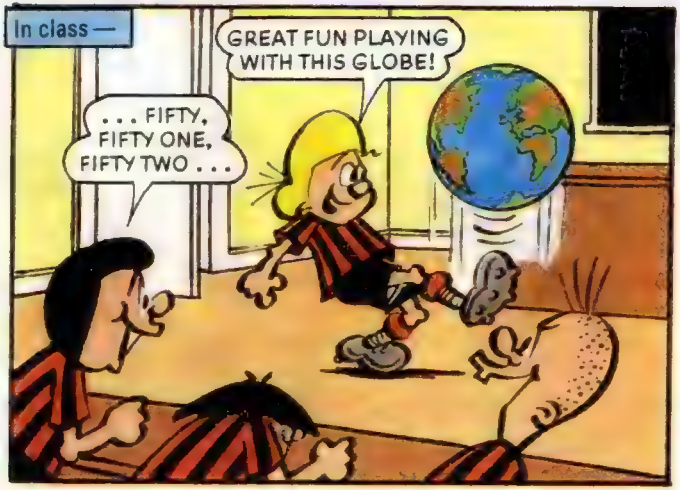

NO, LOOK — THEY'RE CHEERING US!

THIS IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE BORING CUP FINAL!
EVEN THE PLAYERS ARE WATCHING US!

BALL BOY

In the school playground —
I'M GOING TO VOLLEY THIS ONE!

OO-ER! I'VE HIT THE HEAD'S HEAD!


In class —
GREAT FUN PLAYING WITH THIS GLOBE!
. . . FIFTY, FIFTY ONE, FIFTY TWO . . .

But —
BALL BOY! WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
ERK! I WAS JUST POINTING OUT WHERE THE NEXT WORLD CUP WILL BE HELD!

SO YOU LIKE G
THEN

DF!
I'M TAKING THIS AWAY! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
AW!
So —
WE CAN STILL PLAY WITH THIS TIN CAN!
OH, NO! NOW THE JANITOR'S TAKEN OUR "BALL"!
PESKY LITTER LOUTS!
RAPHY
OH, NO! A STIFF TEST!
STIFF TEST
But —
YES! GREAT!
READER
WHAT, B.B. ENJOYING A GEOGRAPHY TEST?
I DO WHEN ALL THE QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT FOOTBALL!
HA-HA!
1. Which country won The 1922 Olympic Football Gold Medal? SPAIN ✓
2. Where was The 1958 World Cup held? SWEDEN ✓
3. Which country won The World Cup four times? BRAZIL ✓

BALL
BOY

PHEW! IT'S FAR TOO HOT TO RUN ABOUT AFTER THE BALL TODAY!

ICE CREAM CONES SHOULD KEEP US COOL!

FIRST I'LL NEED MY BOOT . . .

. . . A CORNER FLAG . . .

. . . TIE THE LACES TO THE CORNER STICK . . .

But —

WOOPS!

WAAH! NO USE!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR A NEW GAME THAT WON'T BE SO ENERGETIC!

WHAT?

. . . TA-DAA!

And —

WOW!

YAHOO! A GOAL-IN-ONE!

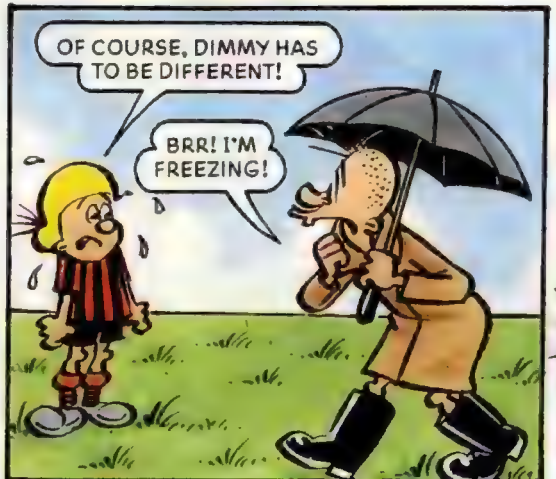
MY TURN NEXT!

GREAT GAME!

BALL BOY

PHEW! IT'S A SCORCHER TODAY!
THE PLAYERS ARE FINDING IT HARD TO CONCENTRATE!

SEE WHAT I MEAN!


OF COURSE, DIMMY HAS TO BE DIFFERENT!
BRR! I'M FREEZING!

THERE'S EVEN AN ICE-CREAM MAN IN THE CENTRE CIRCLE!

SORRY, LADS, I'VE RUN OUT OF CONES AND WAFERS!
JUST FILL MY BOOTS WITH RASPBERRY RIPPLE, TONI!

But —

WOA! I'M GOING TO BARBADOS!

HUH! YOU'LL BE GOING THERE ON A FREE TRANSFER IF YOU DON'T SHAKE A LEG!

HMM! WE'RE THREE PLAYERS SHORT!

YEAH! TERRY AND THE TWINS ARE MISSING!

COME IN, YOU THREE! YOUR TIME IS UP!

WE'LL NEVER GET A GOOD GAME IN THIS HEAT!

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

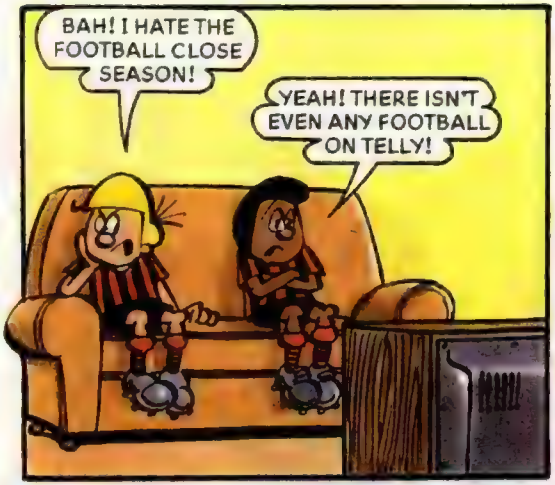
ONLY ONE THING FOR IT, THEN . . .

KNOW HOW WE MANAGED IT?

WE GOT OUR MUMS TO PUT OUT THE WASHING!

IT ALWAYS RAINS WHEN MUM PUTS THE WASHING OUT!

BALL BOY


BAH! I HATE THE FOOTBALL CLOSE SEASON!
YEAH! THERE ISN'T EVEN ANY FOOTBALL ON TELLY!

Outside —
AND THE REST OF THE TEAM ARE MORE INTERESTED IN SUNBATHING THAN TRAINING!

AND THE YEAR BEFORE, PEOPLE DECIDED TO USE IT AS A RUBBISH DUMP!

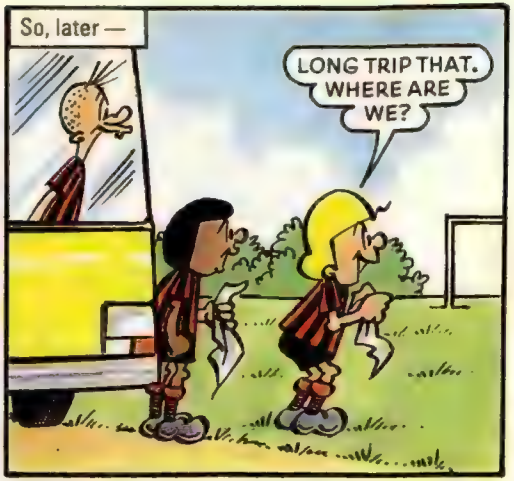
WE'D BETTER MAKE A PITCH INSPECTION TODAY.
GOOD IDEA!

YIKES! I THINK IT'S BEEN TURNED INTO A HOLIDAY CAMP!
OH, NO!

OH, WELL! ONLY ANOTHER WEEK OR SO TO THE NEW FOOTBALL SEASON!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF STATE OUR PITCH IS IN!
REMEMBER LAST YEAR WE HAD A RAINY SUMMER.
THE PITCH WAS LIKE A JUNGLE!
But —
DON'T WORRY — WE'RE ONLY STAYING HERE A WEEK!
AND IF YOU COME BACK TONIGHT, I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY YOURSELVES!
And —
YAHOO! THOSE CARAVANS BELONG TO THE TRAVELING FAIRGROUND PEOPLE!
THEY CAN INVADE OUR PITCH ANYTIME!
GREAT PRACTICE!

BALL BOY

WE'RE ON A MYSTERY TOUR!


So, later —
LONG TRIP THAT. WHERE ARE WE?

LOOK OUT, MISTER! THE BALL'S GOING TO HIT YOU!

THE POOR CODGER MUST BE HARD OF HEARING!

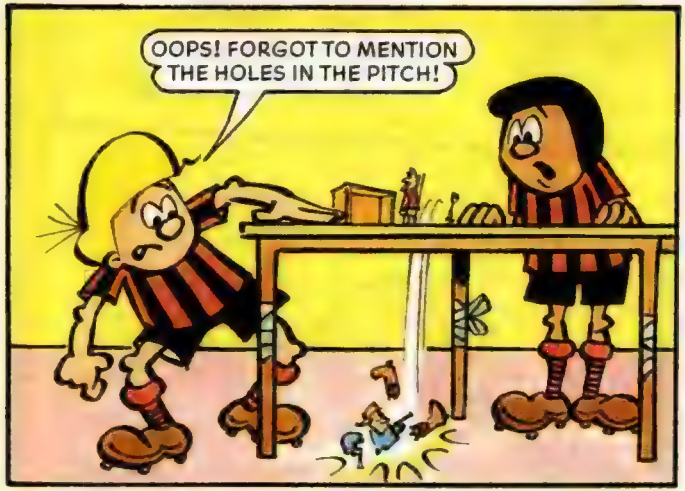
ERK! HE'S NOT DEAF . . .

HMM! I DON'T RECOGNISE THIS PITCH!
ME NEITHER!
During the game —
WHICH PITCH IS THIS, MATE?
PLEASE YOURSELF! I ONLY ASKED — OOPS!
SLUGGE!
?!@$!
. . . HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH!
DRIVER
CAN YOU GUESS WHERE WE ARE, READERS?
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME!

BALL
BOY

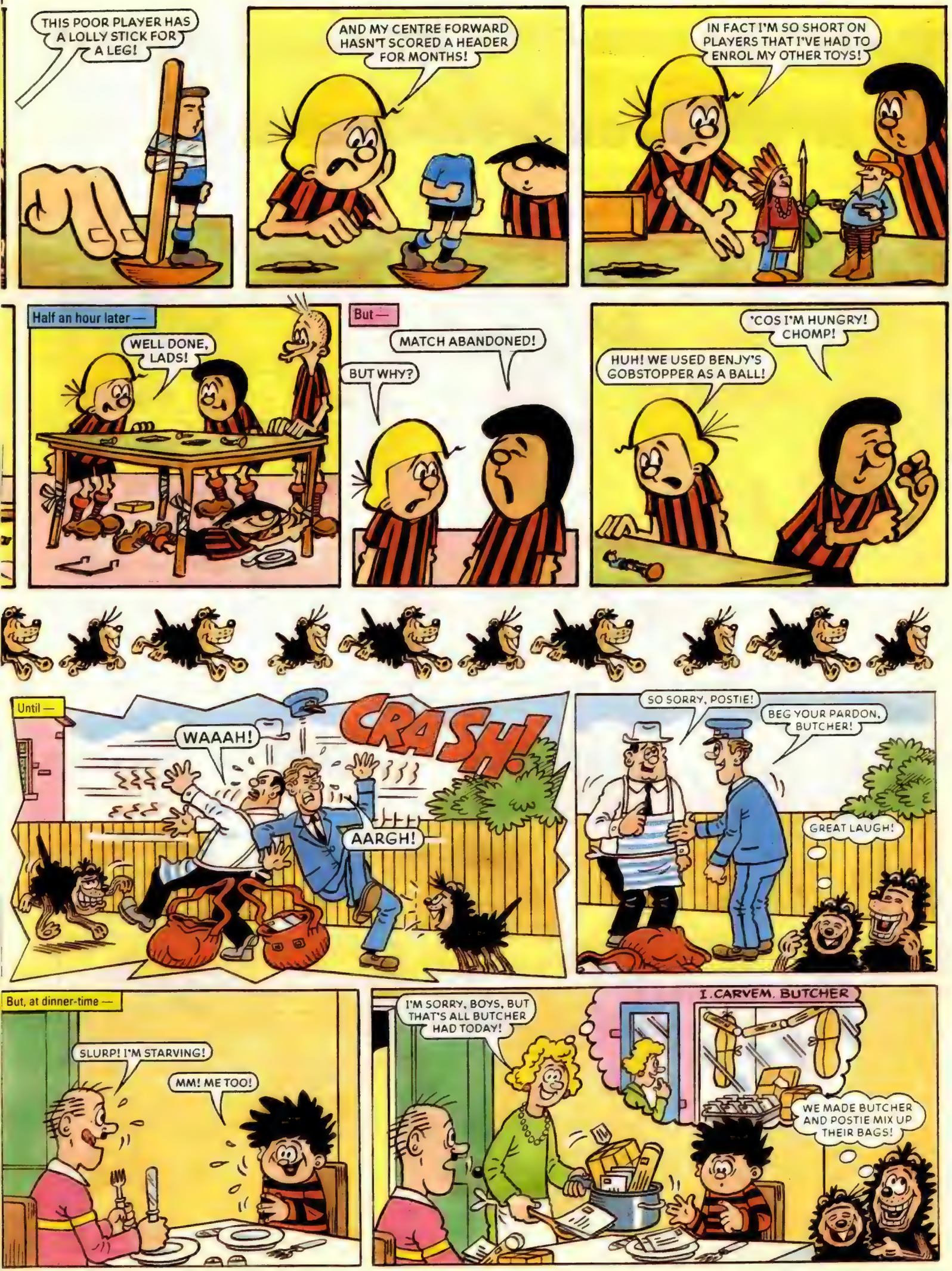
HMM! MY TABLE FOOTBALL SET HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS!

THERE'S NO NET IN THIS GOAL!
AND THIS GOAL IS MADE OUT OF A CARDBOARD BOX!


OOPS! FORGOT TO MENTION THE HOLES IN THE PITCH!

MY PLASTIC ACTION ALIEN IS THE ONLY SUB I'VE GOT LEFT!

Then —
OH, NO!
WE'LL HAVE TO REBUILD IT!


THIS POOR PLAYER HAS A LOLLY STICK FOR A LEG!
AND MY CENTRE FORWARD HASN'T SCORED A HEADER FOR MONTHS!
IN FACT I'M SO SHORT ON PLAYERS THAT I'VE HAD TO ENROL MY OTHER TOYS!
Half an hour later —
WELL DONE, LADS!
But —
MATCH ABANDONED!
BUT WHY?
'COS I'M HUNGRY! CHOMP!
HUH! WE USED BENJY'S GOBSTOPPER AS A BALL!
Until —
WAAAH!
CRASH!
AARGH!
SO SORRY, POSTIE!
BEG YOUR PARDON, BUTCHER!
GREAT LAUGH!
But, at dinner-time —
SLURP! I'M STARVING!
MM! ME TOO!
I'M SORRY, BOYS, BUT THAT'S ALL BUTCHER HAD TODAY!
I. CARVEM, BUTCHER
WE MADE BUTCHER AND POSTIE MIX UP THEIR BAGS!

BALL
BOY

NNGH!
MMFF!
HEAVE!

PHEW! THIS IS OUR NEW MASCOT!

IT KEEPS THE PITCH IN GREAT CONDITION!

BUT PREFERS THE TASTE OF OUR SHORTS! WAAAH!

L-LET'S GET ANOTHER MASCOT!
GOOD IDEA!

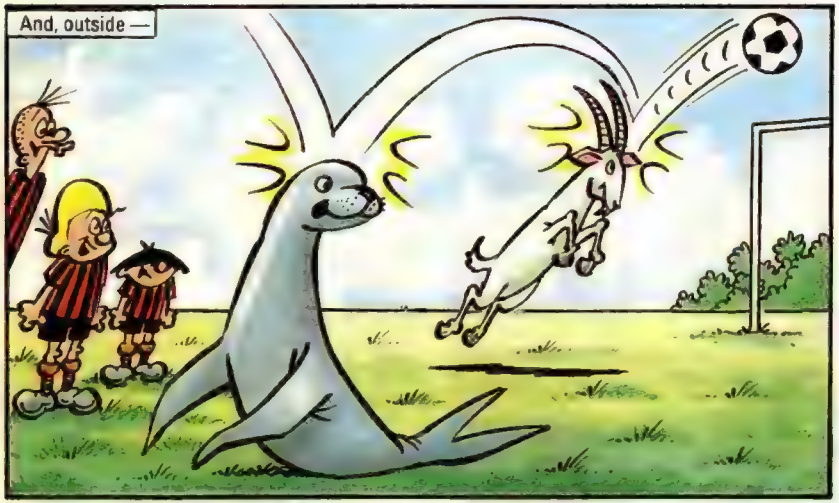
And —
WHO'S A CLEVER TEAM? WHO'S A CLEVER TEAM?
OUR NEW MASCOT IS GREAT FOR TEAM SPIRIT.

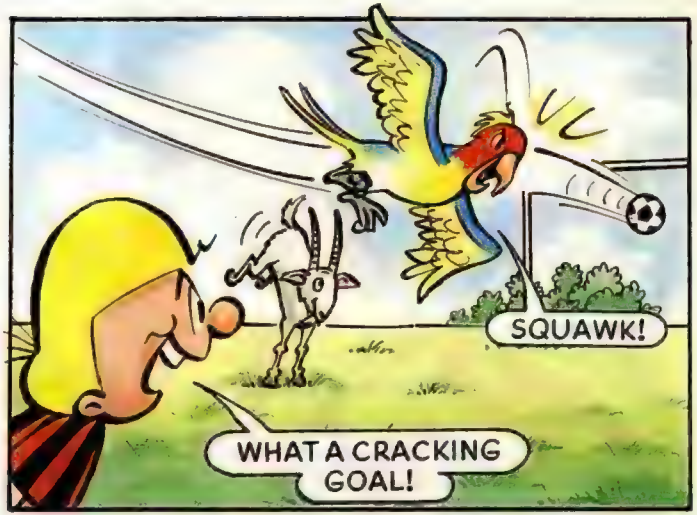
But —
REF'S A SILLY TWIT! REF'S A SILLY TWIT!
OFF FOR CHEEK!
ERK! YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A LUCKY MASCOT!

Next —
SAMMY THE SEAL GIVES US THE BEST APPLAUSE!
HONK! HONK!
SLAP!

But —
BAH! WE CAN'T GET INTO THE TEAM BATH.
HONK! HONK!
HUH! HE'LL HAVE TO GO, TOO. ALL OUR MASCOTS HAVE BEEN USELESS.

Then —
HONK!
HEY! LOOK AT THAT!


And, outside —

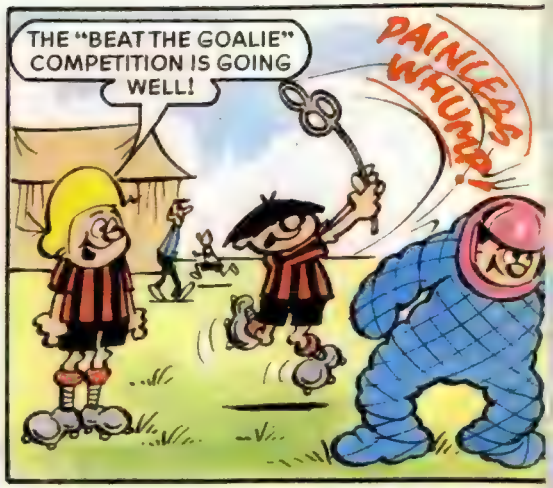

SQUAWK!
WHAT A CRACKING GOAL!

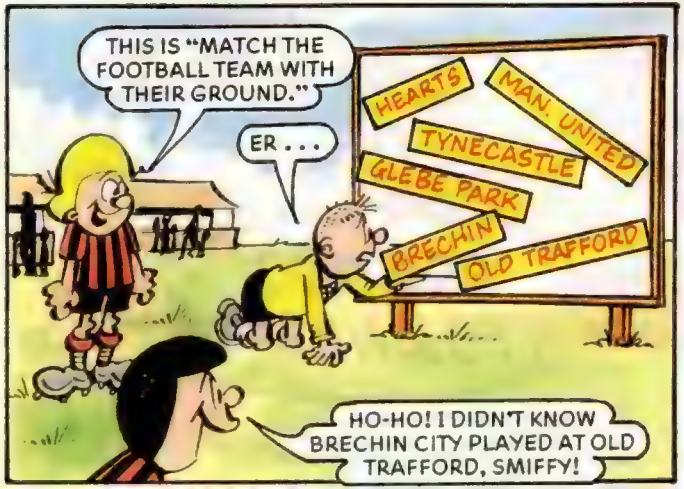
WE'VE GOT NEW MASCOTS . . .

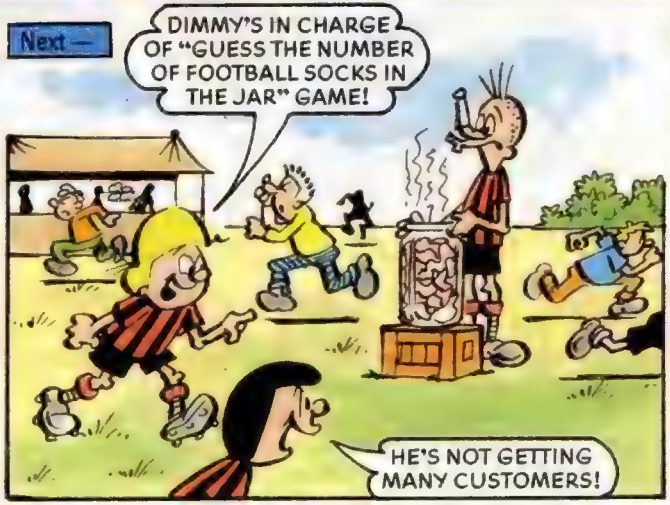
. . . US! THE GOAT, THE PARROT AND THE SEAL HAVE TAKEN OUR POSITIONS IN THE TEAM!

BALL BOY

WE'RE HOLDING A FETE TO BOOST CLUB FUNDS!


THE "BEAT THE GOALIE" COMPETITION IS GOING WELL!
PAINLESS WHUMP!


THIS IS "MATCH THE FOOTBALL TEAM WITH THEIR GROUND."
ER . . .
HEARTS
MAN. UNITED
TYNECASTLE
GLEBE PARK
BRECHIN
OLD TRAFFORD
HO-HO! I DIDN'T KNOW BRECHIN CITY PLAYED AT OLD TRAFFORD, SMIFFY!


Next —
DIMMY'S IN CHARGE OF "GUESS THE NUMBER OF FOOTBALL SOCKS IN THE JAR" GAME!
HE'S NOT GETTING MANY CUSTOMERS!

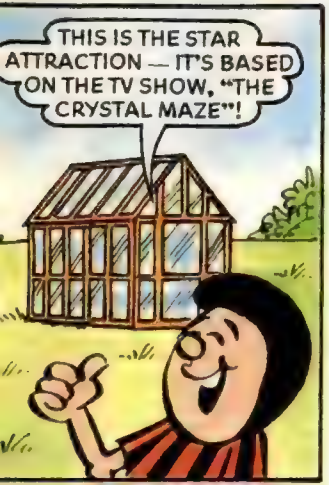
Lastly —
YOUR DAD'S GREENHOUSE IS PERFECT!

THAT'S FOR LETTING IN THAT PASS-BACK LAST WEEK! HA-HA!

WE BROUGHT OUR PENALTY BOX WITH US!
YES! WE CUT THE TURF INTO SQUARES!

THE FASTEST TEAM TO PUT IT ALL BACK TOGETHER WINS A SOCCER JIGSAW!

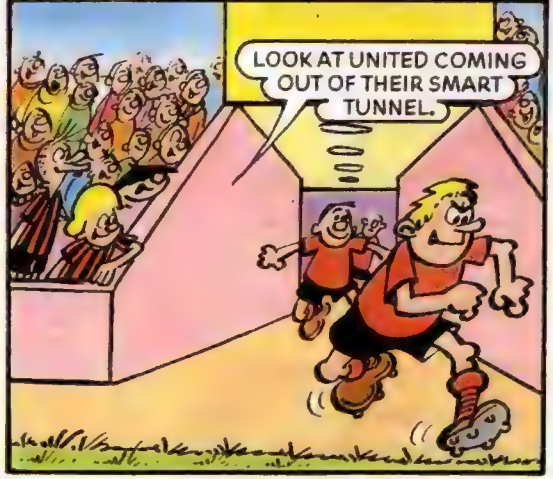
THEY'RE PLAYING "KEEPIE-UP" WITH WATER BLASTERS!
10p. PER GAME


THIS IS THE STAR ATTRACTION — IT'S BASED ON THE TV SHOW, "THE CRYSTAL MAZE"!

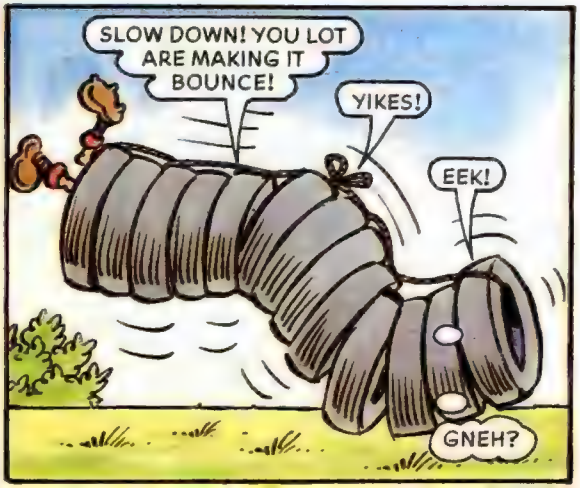
YOU'VE GOT TO COLLECT AS MANY FOOTBALL CARDS AS YOU CAN AS THEY BLOW AROUND!
BUT HOW DO WE GET THEM TO BLOW AROUND?

COME ON YE REDS!
HANDY CHAP, OUR FAN!

BALL BOY


LOOK AT UNITED COMING OUT OF THEIR SMART TUNNEL.

After the game —
DO YOU THINK WE COULD AFFORD TO GET A NEW TUNNEL?
WE'RE SKINT! SIGH!


SLOW DOWN! YOU LOT ARE MAKING IT BOUNCE!
YIKES!
EEK!
GNEH?

LOOK! A FLYING DOG!
GNOOOW!
POOR GNASHER!

BOUNCING PLAYERS NOW! WHAT A LAUGH!
POOR BALL BOY!
AARGH!

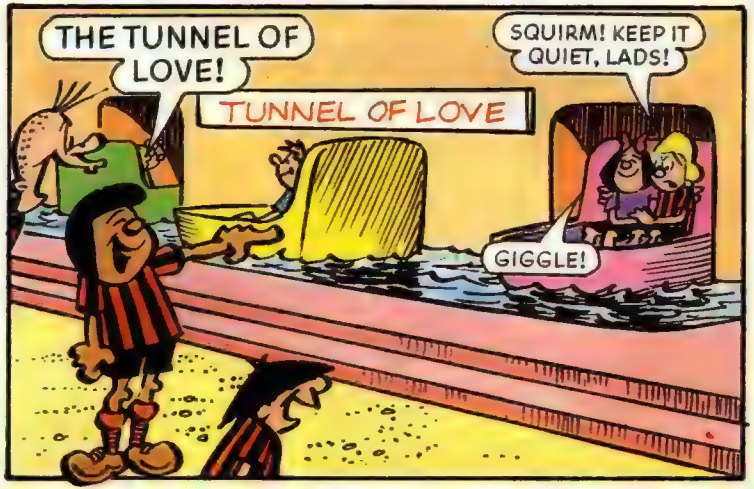
So —
THOSE TYRES WOULD MAKE A GREAT TUNNEL!
TAKE AS MANY AS YOU LIKE!

And —
TA-OAA!
COOL!

DENNIS LET US BORROW GNASHER AS OUR MASCOT!

I'M G-GLAD TH-THAT'S O-OVER!
YEAH! I'LL NEVER G-GO THROUGH ANOTHER T-TUNNEL A-AGAIN!

Later on —
I'VE JUST SEEN B.B. GOING INTO A TUNNEL!
EH? NEVER!


THE TUNNEL OF LOVE!
TUNNEL OF LOVE
SQUIRM! KEEP IT QUIET, LADS!
GIGGLE!

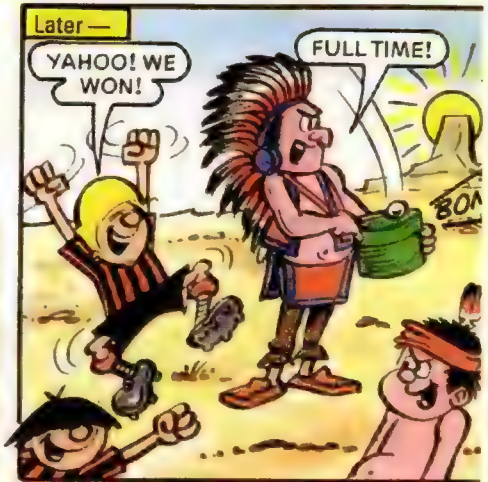
BALL
BOY

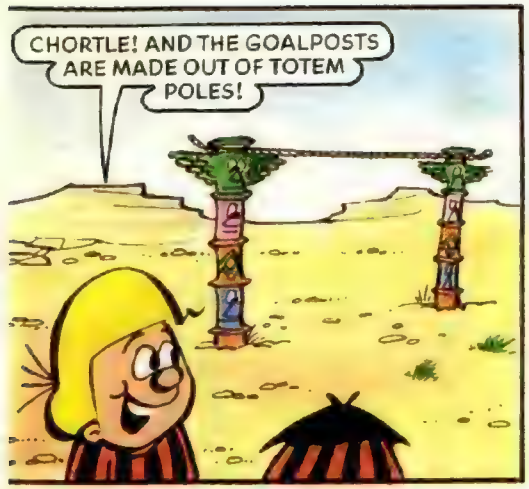
WE'RE ON AN AMERICAN TOUR AGAINST LITTLE PLUM'S TEAM!

WOW! UNUSUAL CORNER FLAGS!

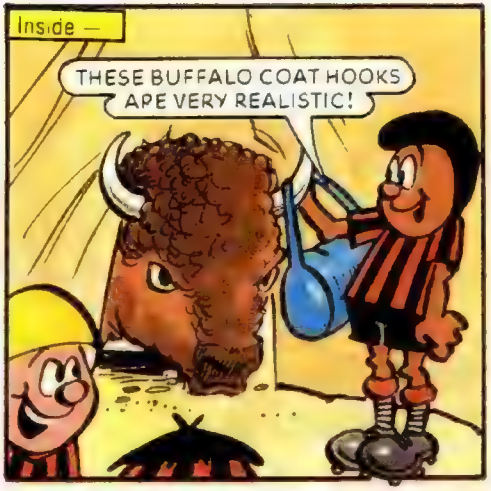
YIKES! IT IS A REAL BUFFALO!
SNORT!

THE MATCH WILL END WHEN UM SUN SETS ON THAT MOUNTAIN!
OKAY, REF!


Later —
YAHOO! WE WON!
FULL TIME!


CHORTLE! AND THE GOALPOSTS ARE MADE OUT OF TOTEM POLES!

THIS IS YOUR DRESSING ROOM!
THANKS, PLUM! A REAL WIGWAM!


Inside —
THESE BUFFALO COAT HOOKS ARE VERY REALISTIC!

I CAN'T WAIT TO TELL MUM AND DAD THE RESULT!

Back in Beanotown —
WONDER WHO THIS IS!
RING!

S-2 US!
OOO! WELL DONE, SON!

BALL
BOY

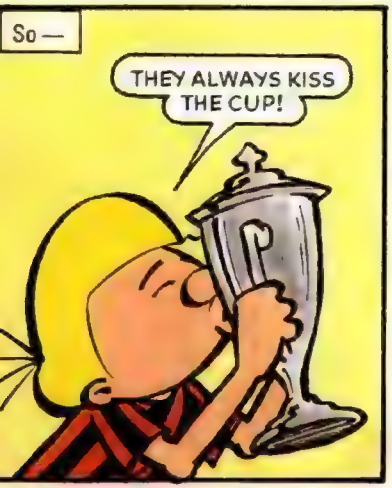
YES! WE'VE WON THE CUP!

HEY! WE CAN CELEBRATE LIKE CUP WINNING TEAMS ON THE TELLY!

LET'S DRINK FIZZY POP OUT OF THE CUP!
GLUG!

HEY! ALL THE TEAMS THROW THEIR COACH INTO THE BATH!
EH?

NO! STOP IT! YOU CAN'T!
WHY NOT?


So —
THEY ALWAYS KISS THE CUP!

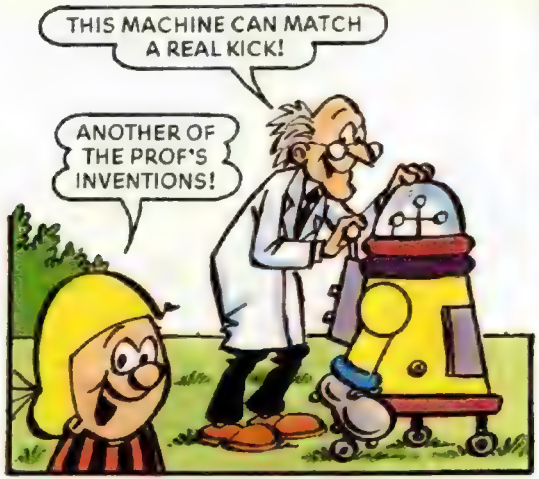
HA-HA! SOMEONE ALWAYS PUTS THE LID ON THEIR HEAD!

LET'S DO A LAP OF HONOUR!
CHAMPEEOANIES!

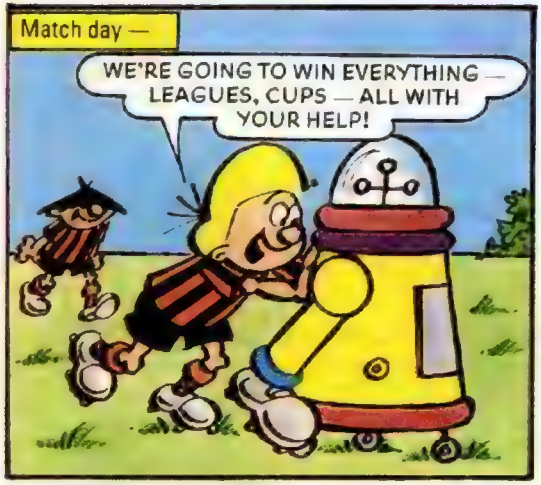
BECAUSE THERE ISN'T A BATH — PUT ME DOWN!

WHAT A STATE TO GET IN. ALL YOU DID WAS WIN A QUIZ. NOT HARD, COS YOU WERE THE ONLY TEAM IN IT.
LOCAL FOOTBALL QUIZ
HUH! IT'S THE ONLY THING WE'RE EVER LIKELY TO WIN!
NO QUESTION!

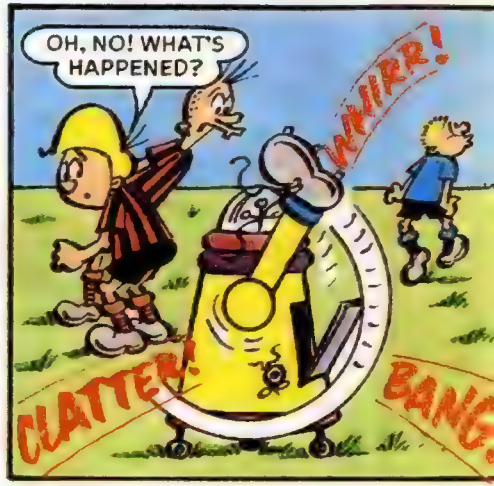
BALL BOY

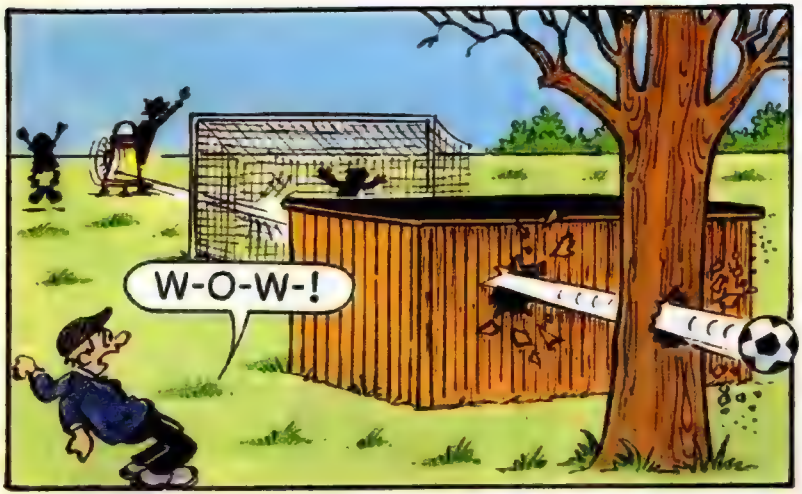

THIS MACHINE CAN MATCH A REAL KICK!
ANOTHER OF THE PROF'S INVENTIONS!

BUT IT HAS SUPER STRENGTH!

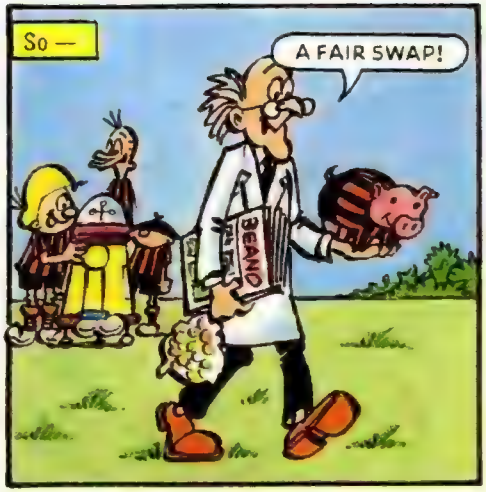

Match day —
WE'RE GOING TO WIN EVERYTHING — LEAGUES, CUPS — ALL WITH YOUR HELP!

THIS SHOULD BE EASY, LADS!
THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS! QUIETLY DOES IT!
TIE


OH, NO! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WHIRR!
CLATTER!
BANG


W-O-W-!

WE'VE GOT TO HAVE IT!
HMM! IT IS EXPENSIVE!


So —
A FAIR SWAP!
BEANO

ERK!
EXPLODES!

I DON'T THINK WE NEED IT NOW ANYWAY!

THEIR KICKING HAS IMPROVED REMARKABLY! OUCH!
WASTE OUR MONEY, SWEETS AND COMICS, WOULD YOU?

BALL
BOY

DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU! I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR GAME. CARE FOR A SWEET?
WHO ARE YOU?

IT'S GARY GOODFELLOW! HE'S A REAL GOODIE-GOODIE! NEVER BEEN BOOKED OR SENT OFF IN HIS LIFE!
WHAT A CHALLENGE!

HAND BALL! YOU'RE BOOKED, MY SON!
THUG

NAME . . .
AND AGAIN!

DOOF!
YANK!

So —
I HOPE WE HAVE A SUPER GAME!

HEY! I SLIPPED A THREAD ROUND HIS WRIST!

WATCH THIS!

OFF!
HA-HA!

SCREAM! MUMMY!

OO! OW! OW! I KNOW! I KNOW — SERVES ME RIGHT!
WAIL!

BALL
BOY

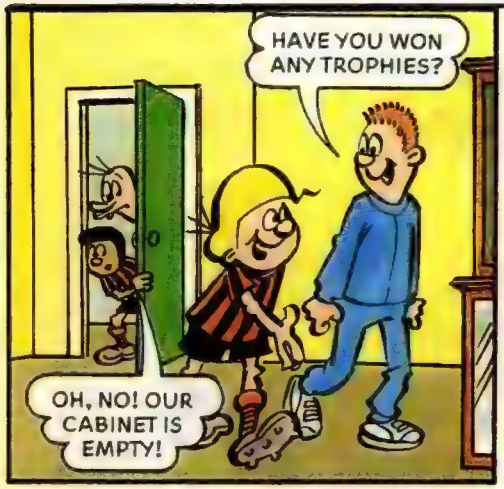
WHO'S THAT BALL BOY IS TALKING TO?

HE'S THE LEAGUE'S TOP STRIKER AND B.B. WANTS TO BUY HIM!
COOL!

I'LL SIGN!
MAGIC!

HERE IS A LIST OF MY DEMANDS!
OH! OKAY!

COME ON, BALL BOY! HE'LL BE WORTH IT!
WE'LL HAVE THE BEST STRIKER IN THE LEAGUE!


HAVE YOU WON ANY TROPHIES?
OH, NO! OUR CABINET IS EMPTY!

But —
WOW! YOU HAVE WON A LOT!

HEH! B.B. MUST HAVE BORROWED OUR DADS' TROPHIES!

HAS YOUR NEW SIGNING SCORED YET?
NOPE! AND HE PROBABLY NEVER WILL!

HE DEMANDED A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF PIES!
FUZZLE!
GASP! HE CAN HARDLY MOVE!

I KNOW! THAT'S WHY WE'VE PUT HIM IN GOAL!
BAH! WE'LL NEVER SCORE AGAINST THIS FATSO!

BALL BOY

BAH! IT'S FULL UP!
GROUND FULL

LOOK! THE TV CAMERAS ARE HERE — THE MATCH WILL BE ON TELEVISION TONIGHT!

WE'LL HEAD FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE TO GET AWAY FROM THE SCORE!

Later —
THE MATCH WILL BE OVER!
LET'S GET BACK!
Chestnut.

READALLABOUTIT! TODAY UNITED . . .
QUICK! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

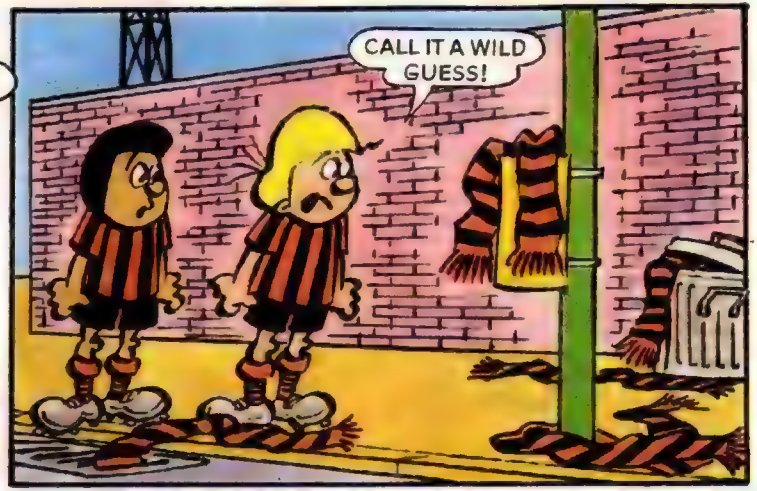
BUT IT WON'T BE THE SAME IF WE KNOW THE RESULT!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO AVOID HEARING THE RESULT!

COVER YOUR EARS — THAT BALLOON SELLER'S LISTENING TO IT ON THE RADIO!

And —
OH-OH! A TV SHOP AND THE HALF-TIME RESULTS ARE ABOUT TO COME ON!
HALF TIME RESULTS
HALF TIME RESULTS
HALF TIME RESULTS

EVERYONE'S GONE HOME.

OH, NO! UNITED LOST, BENJY!
HOW CAN YOU TELL?


CALL IT A WILD GUESS!

BALL
BOY

WONDER IF THE READERS WILL NOTICE, BENJY?
NOTICE WHAT?
Reader

HA-HA! THEY HAVEN'T! GOOD!

WAIT A MINUTE — SOMETHING FISHY IS GOING ON HERE!
GOAL!

Later —
I H-HATE FREE KICKS!

I REPLACED THE BALL WITH THIS WATER-FILLED ONE!
GLUB!

Game on —
WATCH MY GREAT CHEST CONTROL!

UGGHH!

AMAZING!

HEY! WHERE ARE YOUR SHIRTS?
Reader

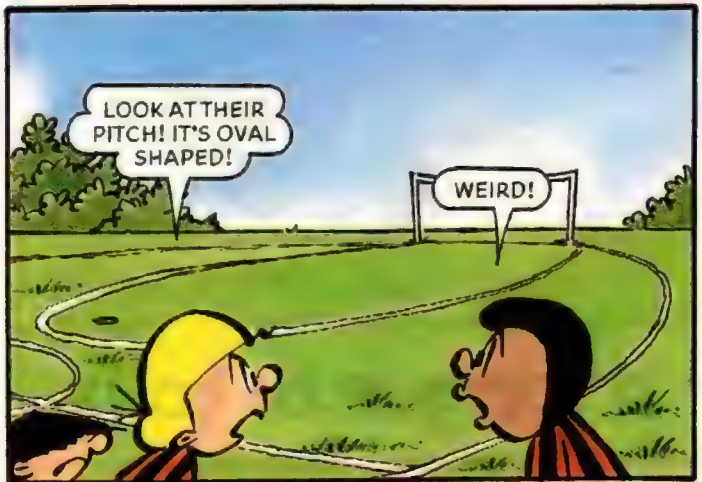
ON OUR LEGS! YEUCH!
OUR JERSEYS WERE STILL IN THE WASH SO WE DECIDED TO PAINT OUR TOPS ON!

And at the end of the game —
STRANGEST SWAPPING OF SHIRTS I'VE EVER DONE!
CHORTLE!

BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING BLACK STREET BLOCKHEADS TODAY.
THEY'RE THE DAFTEST TEAM IN THE LEAUGE!

DIDN'T WE SIGN DIMMY FROM THEM?


LOOK AT THEIR PITCH! IT'S OVAL SHAPED!
WEIRD!

HAW-HAW! THE CRAZY LOT HAVE GIVEN US THE AFTER-MATCH FEED BEFORE THE KICK-OFF.

MORE CHOCOLATE CAKE, B.B.?

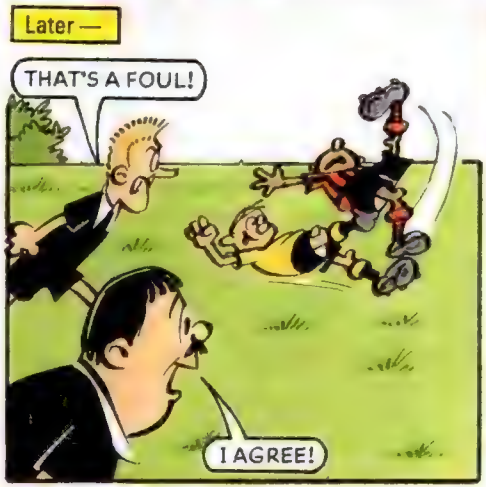
YEAH! THEY PAID US TO TAKE HIM OFF THEIR HANDS!
HEY! I CAN'T FIND A DOOR TO THE DRESSING ROOM.
THAT'S BECAUSE WE FORGOT TO PUT ONE IN!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET CHANGED ROUND THE BACK.
DAFT!
CHOMP! TA!
And —
PHEW! I'M TOO FULL UP TO CHASE THE BALL.
ME TOO!
Full time —
THEY STUFFED US 9-0!
THEY'RE NOT AS DAFT AS THEY LOOK!

BALL BOY

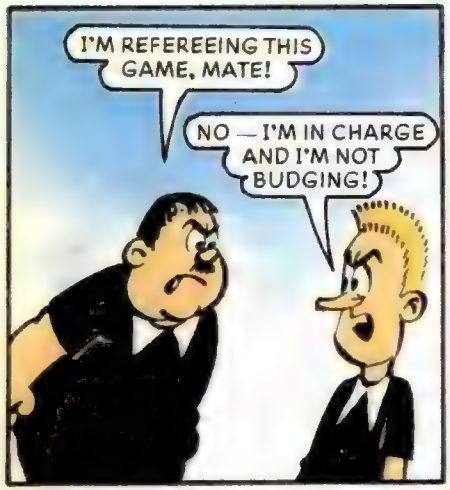
HERE'S THE REF, BENJY.
ER — I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS, BALL BOY . . .

. . . BUT THERE'S ALREADY A REFEREE ON THE PITCH!

CORNER!
GOAL KICK!
SIGH! LET'S JUST CALL IT A DROP BALL!


Later —
THAT'S A FOUL!
I AGREE!

I'M BOOKING THIS PLAYER!
I'M SENDING HIM OFF!

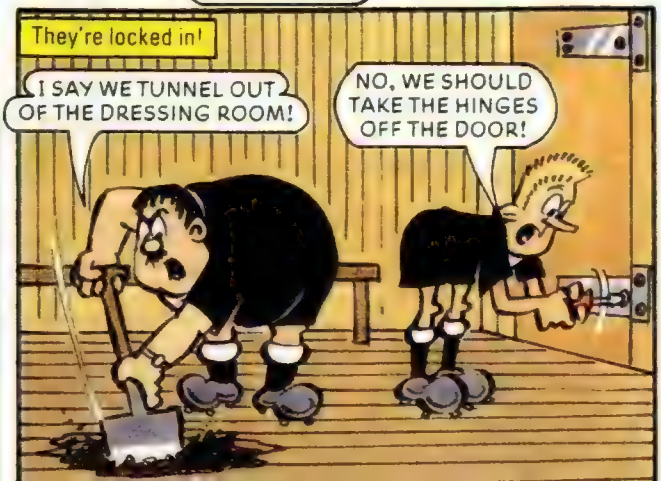

I'M REFEREEING THIS GAME, MATE!
NO — I'M IN CHARGE AND I'M NOT BUDGING!

YOU CAN BOTH REFEREE!

So —
THAT'S A CORNER!
NO IT ISN'T — IT'S A GOAL KICK!

HALF-TIME, LADS!
NOT QUITE! PLAY ON!

Second half —
WE DECIDED THAT NO REF IS BETTER THAN TWO!


They're locked in!
I SAY WE TUNNEL OUT OF THE DRESSING ROOM!
NO, WE SHOULD TAKE THE HINGES OFF THE DOOR!

BALL
BOY

CAN YOU FINISH ICING, THE CHRISTMAS CAKE — I'VE GOT TO DO SOME LAST MINUTE SHOPPING!
OKAY, MUM!

WE CAN DECORATE THE CAKE INTO A FOOTBALL PITCH!

ARE YOU HANGING YOUR TEAM PHOTO ON THE WALL? ARE YOU HOPING SANTA BRINGS A BRAND NEW BALL?
ERK! THEY WANT PAYMENT!

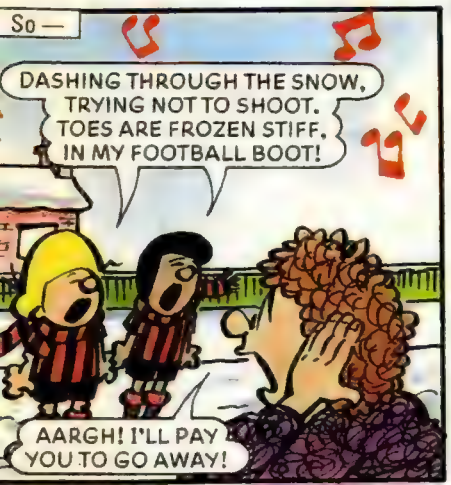
WE'VE NO MONEY, SO WE PAID THEM WITH SLICES OF MUM'S CAKE!
OH, NO! SHE'LL GO MAD WHEN SHE SEES IT!

WE'LL HAVE TO EARN SOME CASH TO BUY ANOTHER CAKE!

THESE CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS MAKE GREAT FLOODLIGHTS!

YIPPEE! THAT'S A HAT TRICK FOR MY SNOWMAN!
BAH!

And —
WE'VE HIRED THESE CAROL SINGERS TO WATCH US!
GOOD TIDINGS WE BRING. WE'RE SURE THAT YOU'LL WIN. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR!


So —
DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW, TRYING NOT TO SHOOT. TOES ARE FROZEN STIFF, IN MY FOOTBALL BOOT!
AARGH! I'LL PAY YOU TO GO AWAY!

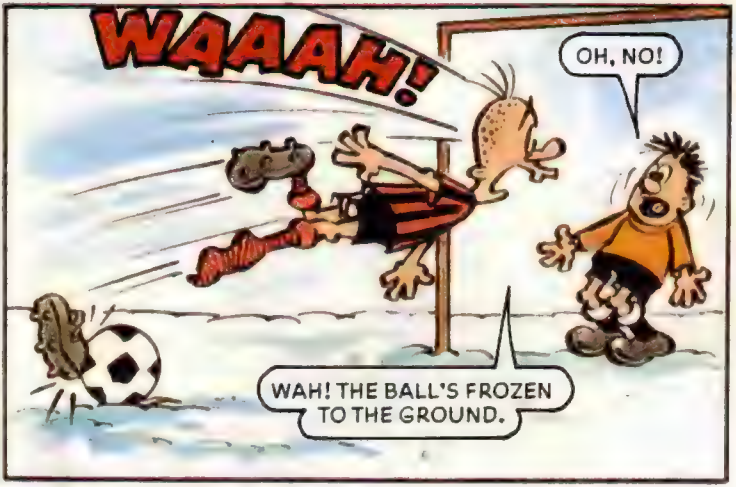
A little later —
WE WERE PAID A FORTUNE NOT TO SING ANYWHERE!
WE HAD ENOUGH TO BUY ANOTHER CAKE!

Back home —
LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT! I WON IT IN A "GUESS THE WEIGHT" COMPETITION!
YIPPEE! WE'LL BE EATING CHRISTMAS CAKE FOR THE NEXT THREE SEASONS!

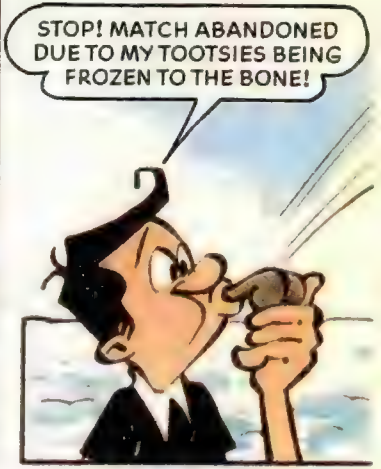
BALL
BOY

IT'S F-F-FREEZING T-T-TODAY!

A CERTAIN GOAL!


WAAAH!
OH, NO!
WAH! THE BALL'S FROZEN TO THE GROUND.

OW!


STOP! MATCH ABANDONED DUE TO MY TOOTSIES BEING FROZEN TO THE BONE!

HO! HO! SAVED BY THAT SHEET OF ICE!
Later, a penalty —
JUST HIT IT AS HARD AS YOU CAN, DIMMY!
OKAY!
SORRY, LADS — NO MORE FOOTBALL TODAY!
IT'S OKAY —
— WE'RE ONLY HERE FOR THE UNDERSOIL HEATING BEING TURNED ON!
THE PITCH WILL BE OKAY TO PLAY ON TOMORROW!
HA! HA! IF ONLY IT HAD BEEN TURNED ON EARLIER, EH?

BALL BOY

OUR KEEPER NEVER STAYS IN HIS PENALTY AREA.

BAH!
PHEW! HE JUST GOT TO THAT ONE!

OH, NO! NOW HE'S DRIBBLING ALL THE WAY UP THE PARK!

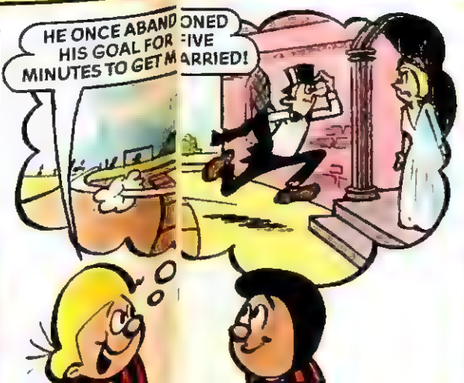
OH, NO! HE'S BEEN CAUGHT IN POSSESSION!

YAHOO! EASY!
GRRR!

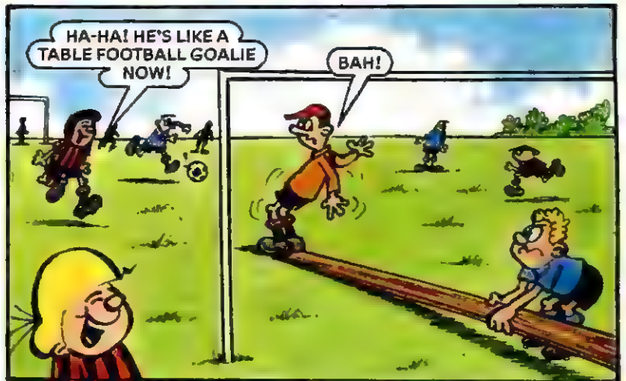
Later —
I'LL BE WAITING AT THE BACK POST!
OKAY!

But —
BAH! GOALIE'S RUN UP THE PITCH!

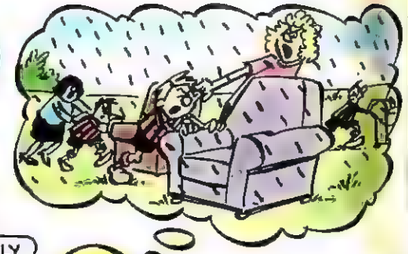
HIS DAD WAS JUST THE SAME, BENJY!


HE ONCE ABANDONED HIS GOAL FOR FIVE MINUTES TO GET MARRIED!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO KEEP HIM IN HIS BOX!
GLUE

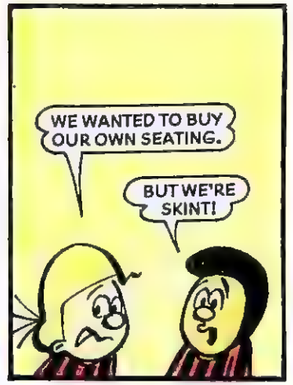

HA-HA! HE'S LIKE A TABLE FOOTBALL GOALIE NOW!
BAH!

BALL BOY

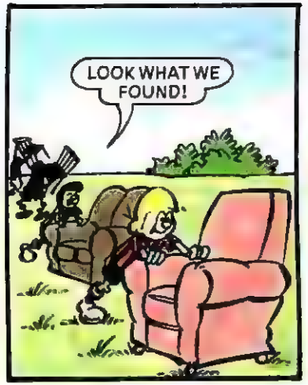


LAST YEAR WE BORROWED OUR FAMILY FURNITURE TO MAKE AN ALL-SEATER STADIUM!

BUT SOME OF OUR MUMS WEREN'T TOO PLEASED WHEN IT STARTED TO RAIN!


WE WANTED TO BUY OUR OWN SEATING.
BUT WE'RE SKINT!

WE COULD TRY THE BEANOTOWN DUMP!
GREAT IDEA!


LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

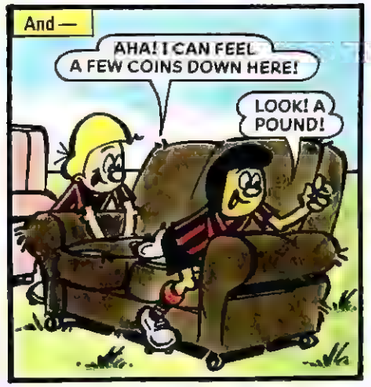
MMM! VERY COMFORTABLE!

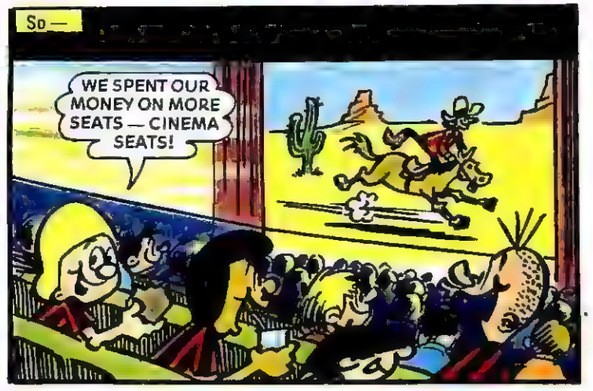
WAAH! I'M BEING EJECTED FROM THE GROUND!
OH, NO!

THE SOFA'S GOBBLED HIM UP!
MMPH!

THIS SEAT'S GIVEN WAY

LET'S GET RID OF THOSE STUPID SEATS!
NOT UNTIL WE'VE CHECKED DOWN THE SIDES!


And —
AHA! I CAN FEEL A FEW COINS DOWN HERE!
LOOK! A POUND!

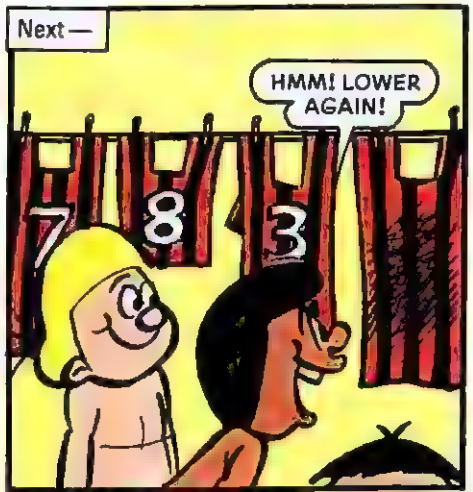

So —
WE SPENT OUR MONEY ON MORE SEATS — CINEMA SEATS!

BALL BOY

MATCH ABANDONED DUE TO LIGHTNING! SIGH!

I KNOW! EVERYONE TAKE THEIR SHIRTS OFF!
WHAT FOR?

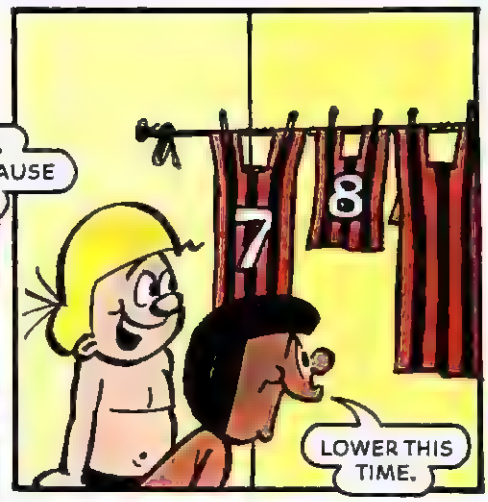
RIGHT AGAIN!
I KNEW IT WAS DIMMY'S SHIRT BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY ONE DAFT ENOUGH TO HAVE THREE SLEEVES!
3


Next —
HMM! LOWER AGAIN!
7
8
3

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, BENJY!
FREDDY IS THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS HAS GRASS STAINS AFTER ALL HIS SLIDING TACKLES!
2

WE'RE GOING TO "PLAY YOUR SHIRTS RIGHT"!
7
HIGHER! HIGHER THAN A SEVEN!

YOU'RE RIGHT!
I KNEW IT WAS TITCH'S NUMBER EIGHT SHIRT BECAUSE HE'S THE SMALLEST!
8


7
8
LOWER THIS TIME.

YOUR PRIZE ALL DEPENDS ON THE TURN OF THIS SHIRT!
LOWER! LOWER!

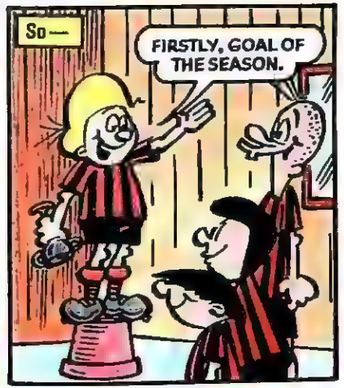
YOU WIN, BENJY!
IT HAD TO BE THE GOALIE'S NUMBER ONE – IT'S A DIFFERENT COLOUR!

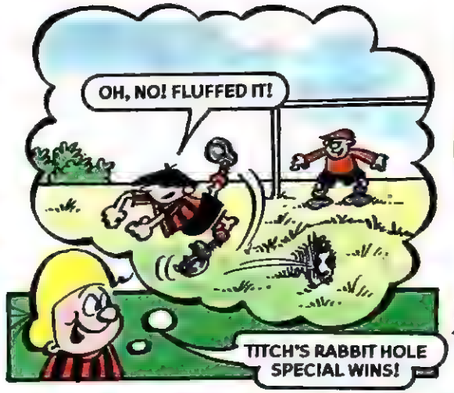
But —
HUH! SOME PRIZE – WASHING ALL OUR DIRTY SHIRTS!
DON'T GET SHIRTY IT WAS YOUR TURN ANYWAY!

BALL BOY

WE'RE HAVING OUR ANNUAL TEAM DINNER TODAY.
ARE WE HAVING IT AT A POSH HOTEL?

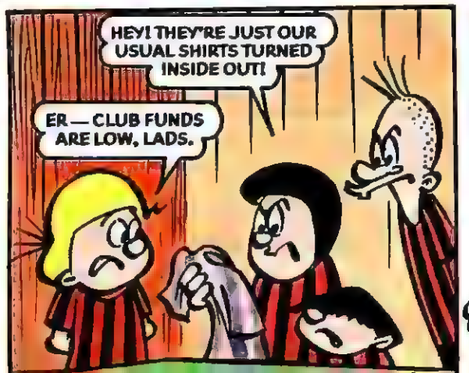
NO — MY DAD'S GARDEN SHED!
AW!


So —
FIRSTLY, GOAL OF THE SEASON.


OH, NO! FLUFFED IT!
TITCH'S RABBIT HOLE SPECIAL WINS!

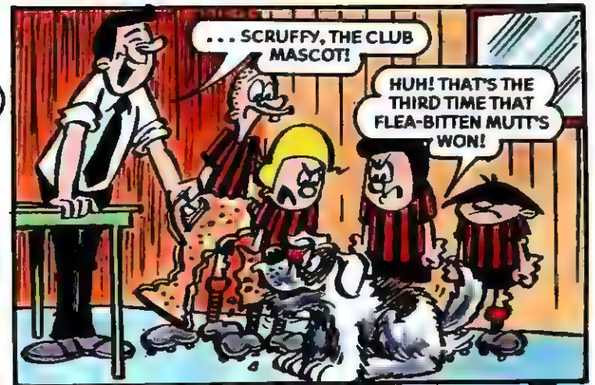
WHAT A GOAL!

Next —
THIS IS NEXT SEASON'S NEW STRIP.


HEY! THEY'RE JUST OUR USUAL SHIRTS TURNED INSIDE OUT!
ER — CLUB FUNDS ARE LOW, LADS.

Then —
THIS IS FOR SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE SEASON.
I MADE THE TROPHY FROM BAKED BREAD.

THE SPORTS PERSONALITY THIS SEASON IS . . .
I'M SURE TO WIN!


. . . SCRUFFY, THE CLUB MASCOT!
HUH! THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THAT FLEA-BITTEN MUTT'S WON!

BALL BOY

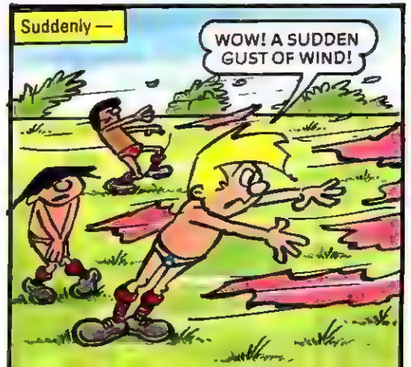
HEY! WHERE ARE OUR STRIPS, DIMMY?
OH, NO! I'VE LEFT THEM ON THE BUS!

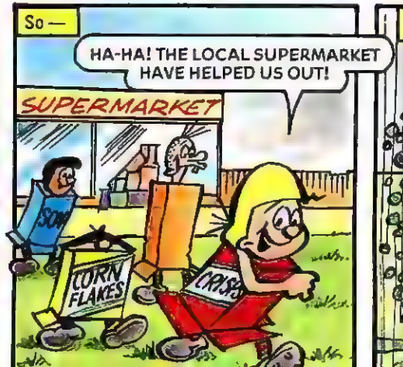
So —
MAYBE WE CAN MAKE OURSELVES STRIPS.

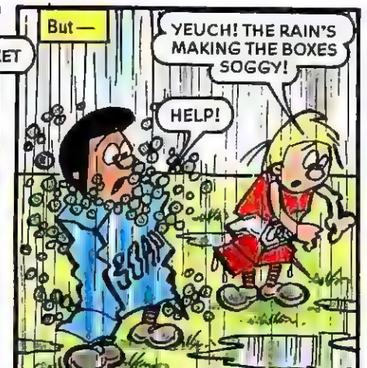
WE CAN WEAR PAPER STRIPS!
THANKS FOR THE SPARE PAPER, MISTER!

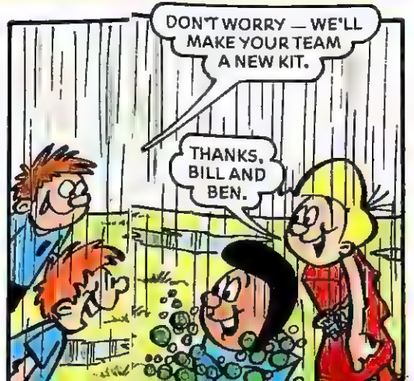
HA-HA! DIMMY'S FORGOTTEN TO MAKE A HOLE FOR HIS HEAD!

HE SHOULD WEAR IT ALL THE TIME HE'S PLAYING A BLINDER!


Suddenly —
WOW! A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND!


So —
HA-HA! THE LOCAL SUPERMARKET HAVE HELPED US OUT!
SUPERMARKET
CORN FLAKES


But —
YEUCH! THE RAIN'S MAKING THE BOXES SOGGY!
HELP!


DON'T WORRY — WE'LL MAKE YOUR TEAM A NEW KIT.
THANKS, BILL AND BEN.

C-CAN'T M-MOVE M-MUCH!
ANOTHER GOAL FOR THE LADS FROM THE GARDEN CENTRE!
ERK! I'M ROOTED TO THE SPOT!

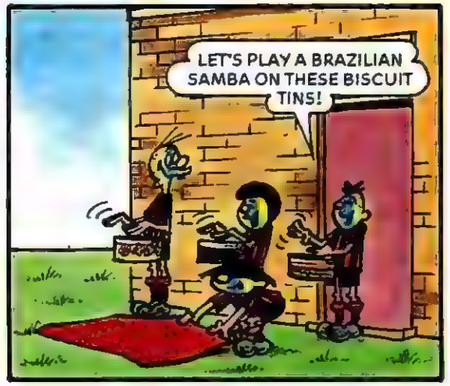
BALL BOY

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, BALL BOY?
TO COLLECT OUR NEW BRAZILIAN SIGNING!

YAHOO! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BRAZILIAN IN OUR TEAM!

HE'LL TIE OUR OPPONENTS IN KNOTS WITH HIS STYLISH DRIBBLING!

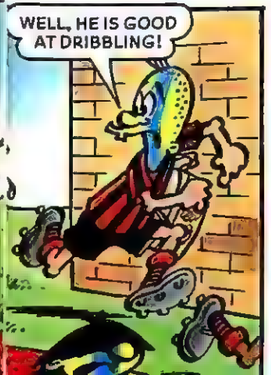
WE'RE HAVING OUR FACES PAINTED IN THE COLOURS OF THE BRAZIL TEAM!


LET'S PLAY A BRAZILIAN SAMBA ON THESE BISCUIT TINS!

READY TO MEET OUR NEW SIGNING?
CAN'T WAIT!

But —
MEET GNASHINIO — OUR NEW MASCOT!
WE'VE BEEN BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE!

SNARL!


WELL, HE IS GOOD AT DRIBBLING!

MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE WARNED THEM THAT GNASHINIO IS GNASHER'S SOUTH AMERICAN COUSIN!

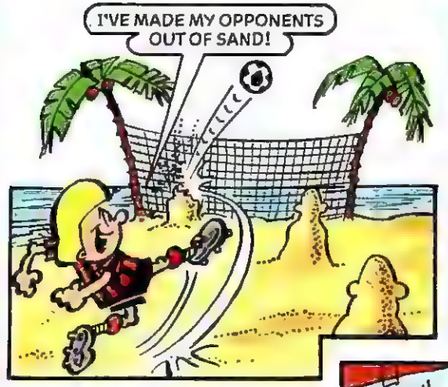
But later —
THEY'RE ALL FRIENDS NOW!
NO NEED FOR A NUTCRACKER WHEN GNASHINIO'S AROUND!

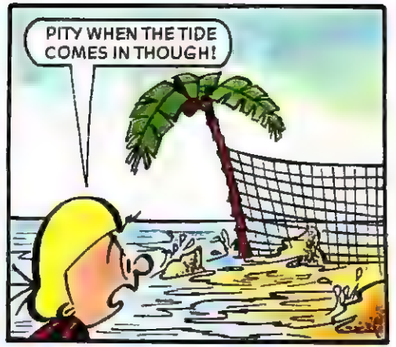
BALL BOY

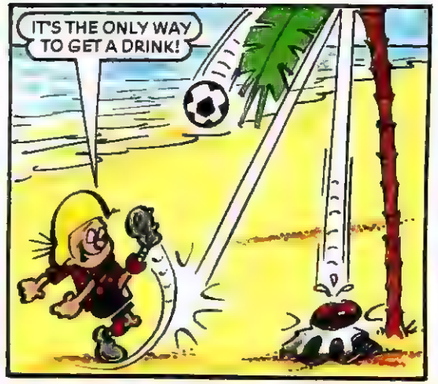
NOTHING LIKE A REFRESHING HALF-TIME DRINK!

WOW! I'VE GOT A GOLDEN RING PULL!
COO! YOU'VE WON THE FIRST PRIZE IN THEIR SOFT DRINK COMPETITION!

And, a few days later —
YAHOO! THE FIRST PRIZE IS A WEEKEND ON A DESERT ISLAND!


I'VE MADE MY OPPONENTS OUT OF SAND!


PITY WHEN THE TIDE COMES IN THOUGH!


IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GET A DRINK!

I'LL SEND THE LADS THIS MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

And —
B.B. WANTS TO KNOW OUR RESULTS AGAINST ROVERS.
WE CAN REPLY BY AIRMAIL.

NIGHT, NIGHT, READERS! I SHOULD GET BENJY'S MESSAGE FIRST THING TOMORROW!

And, next day —
WOW! HERE IT IS!
BALLBOY

WE WON! YOUR TURN TO WASH THE STRIPS!
BAH! I BET ROBINSON CRUSOE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS!

BALL BOY

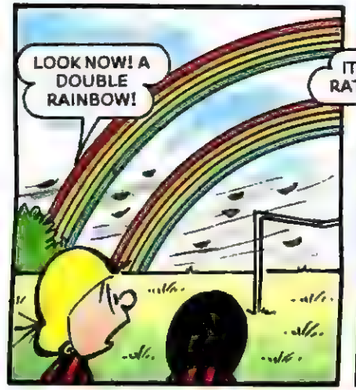
NOTHING LIKE A HOT DOG BEFORE A MATCH!
YUM! CHOMP!

Suddenly —
YIKES! THAT GOLDEN EAGLE HAS PINCHED THE SAUSAGE OUT OF MY BUN!
SWIPE!

I THOUGHT GOLDEN EAGLES WERE ONLY FOUND IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SCOTLAND!
THEY ARE!

Then —
LOOK! A BALL OF LIGHTNING!
HOW UNUSUAL!

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME A BALL'S BEEN NEAR OUR OPPONENTS' GOAL.


LOOK NOW! A DOUBLE RAINBOW!

IT'S GETTING RATHER WINDY.
GULP!

GOSH! A MINI TORNADO!
IT'S WHIPPED UP OUR BALL!

Until —
POOR DIMMY!

WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME UNUSUAL THINGS HAPPEN TODAY — BUT THIS HAS TO BE THE MOST AMAZING . . .

. . . DIMMY'S SCORED A WINNER FOR US — THAT REALLY IS AMAZING.
WAY-HEY!

BALL BOY

Suddenly —
ALL STAND STILL!

READER
RUNNING BACKWARDS NOW?

HA-HA! YOU WERE LOOKING INTO THE EYE-PIECE OF MY DAD'S CAMCORDER. I TAPED IT AT A TRAINING SESSION. I'M GOING TO TAPE TODAY'S GAME SO WE CAN STUDY IT LATER.

So —
OOPS! SORRY, TITCH! I'VE TAPPED YOUR ANKLE.

AAAARRGH!

OKAY! OKAY! YOU'VE MADE IT LOOK GOOD ON CAMERA — NOW GET UP!

HEAD IT!

But —
NO CHANCE — MIGHT RUIN MY HAIRSTYLE!
GRR!

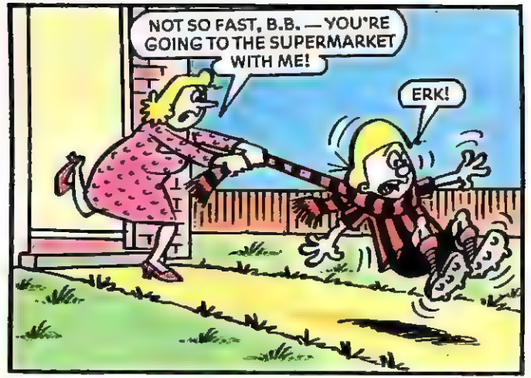
THIS HAS BEEN A DISASTER! THE CAMERA WAS A DAFT IDEA!

BUT WE HAVEN'T LOST A GOAL YET, BALL BOY!
EH?

LOOK! HA-HA!
CATCH A FALLING BALL, THEN KICK IT INTO ORBIT, NEVER LET IT FADE AWAY . . .
BAH!
CURTAINS!

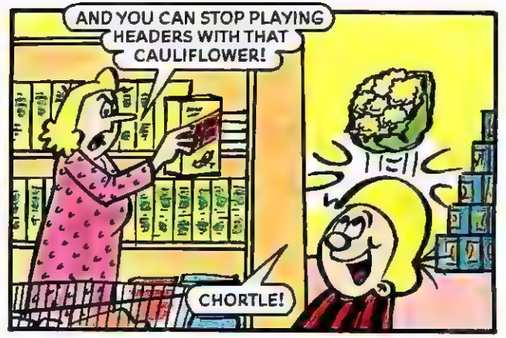
BALL BOY
PHEW! TOUGH TRAINING SESSON, THIS!
OKAY! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY!
GREAT!
I'LL HAVE SALT AND VINEGAR CRISPS.
HAVE YOU GOT CHEESE AND ONION?
READY SALTED, PLEASE.
But —
SORRY, BALL BOY — NO MORE CRISPS LEFT!
BAH!
SHARE YOUR CRISPS WITH ME, BENJY!
I NEED THEM ALL TO REPLACE MY LOST ENERGY!
YOU'LL SHARE YOUR CRISPS WITH ME, WON'T YOU, TITCH?
ER — I CAN'T HEAR A THING ABOVE THAT CRUNCHING NOISE!
CRUNCH! CRUNCH!
BOO-HOO! NOBODY WILL GIVE ME A CRISP!
OH, NO! B.B.'S DOING A GAZZA IMPERSONATION!
HEY! YOU'VE MADE OUR CRISPS SOGGY WITH YOUR TEARS!
SNIFF! SERVES YOU RIGHT FOR NOT SHARING!
HEY! LOOK AT THOSE POTATOES IN THE PENALTY BOX!
OUR SLIDING TACKLES MUST HAVE UNEARTHED THEM!
OUR DADS MUST HAVE BEEN USING THE PITCH TO GROW THEIR VEGETABLES.
I'LL GET MUM TO MAKE CRISPS.
And —
LOOK WHO WANTS A SHARE OF OUR CRISPS NOW!
HA-HA!
WAAH!
WAAAAH!

BALL BOY

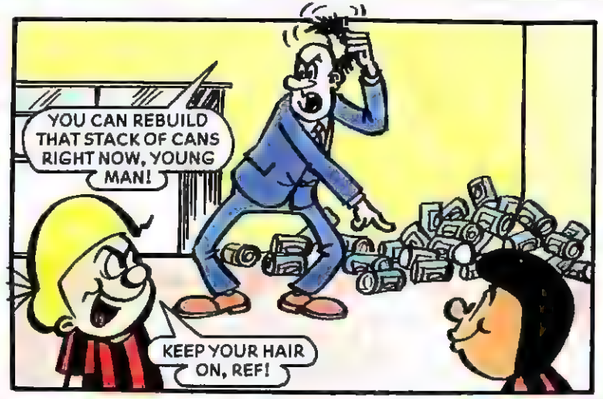

NOT SO FAST, B.B. — YOU'RE GOING TO THE SUPERMARKET WITH ME!
ERK!

BENJY!
HI! SO YOU'VE BEEN FORCED TO GO SHOPPING TOO, EH?

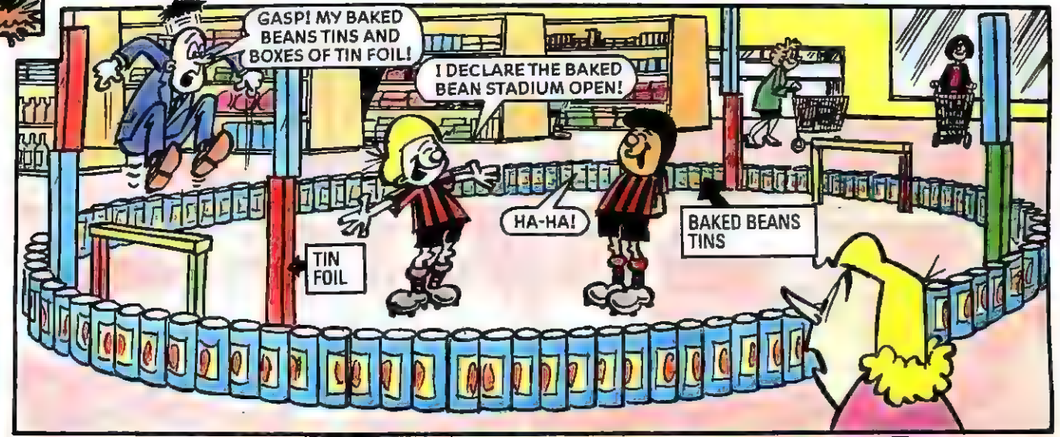
WE DO NOT NEED EIGHT BOXES OF CEREAL!
BUT THERE ARE FREE FOOTBALL STICKERS INSIDE!


AND YOU CAN STOP PLAYING HEADERS WITH THAT CAULIFLOWER!
CHORTLE!

I'LL USE IT FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE INSTEAD!
AARGH!
GREAT SHOT!

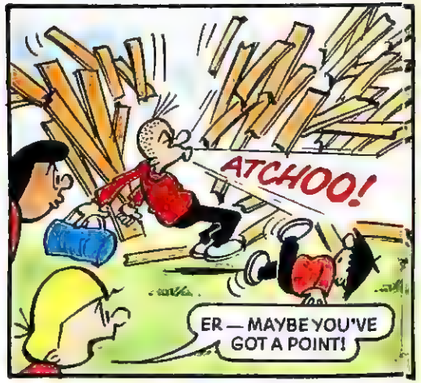

YOU CAN REBUILD THAT STACK OF CANS RIGHT NOW, YOUNG MAN!
KEEP YOUR HAIR ON, REF!

Soon —
OH, NO!


GASP! MY BAKED BEANS TINS AND BOXES OF TIN FOIL!
I DECLARE THE BAKED BEAN STADIUM OPEN!
HA-HA!
TIN FOIL
BAKED BEANS TINS

BALL BOY

HUH! OUR DRESSING-ROOM HAS SEEN BETTER DAYS!
IT'S NOT THAT BAD, BENJY.

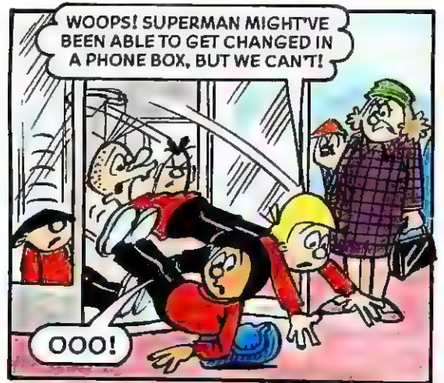

ATCHOO!
ER — MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A POINT!

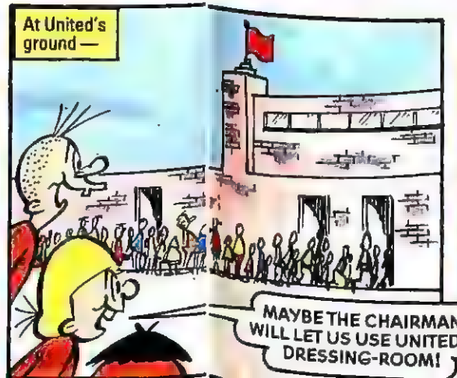
So —
WE'LL USE MY DAD'S GARDEN SHED INSTEAD!

But —
ERK! DON'T GIVE THE GAME AWAY, SON — MUM WANTS ME TO WEED THE GARDEN!
MUM'S THE WORD! HA-HA!

So —
LET'S USE THAT TELEPHONE BOX TO CHANGE IN.

THERE'S NOT M-MUCH R-ROOM IN H-HERE!
HURRY UP! WE WANT TO USE THE TELEPHONE!


WOOPS! SUPERMAN MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET CHANGED IN A PHONE BOX, BUT WE CAN'T!
OOO!


At United's ground —
MAYBE THE CHAIRMAN WILL LET US USE UNITED'S DRESSING-ROOM!

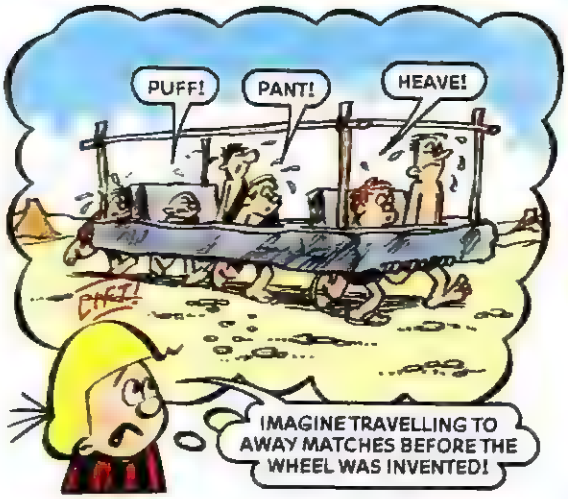
And —
YOU CAN CHANGE IN HERE, LADS!
YAHOO!

BAH! UNITED WERE SHORT OF CATERERS!
HUH! HE DIDN'T TELL US IT WAS APRONS WE'D BE CHANGING INTO!

BALL BOY

1,000,000 YEARS B.C.
THAT WAS A GREAT STONE AGE FILM!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY TOUGH PLAYING FOOTBALL IN PREHISTORIC TIMES!
WHY?


PUFF!
PANT!
HEAVE!
CHUG!
IMAGINE TRAVELLING TO AWAY MATCHES BEFORE THE WHEEL WAS INVENTED!

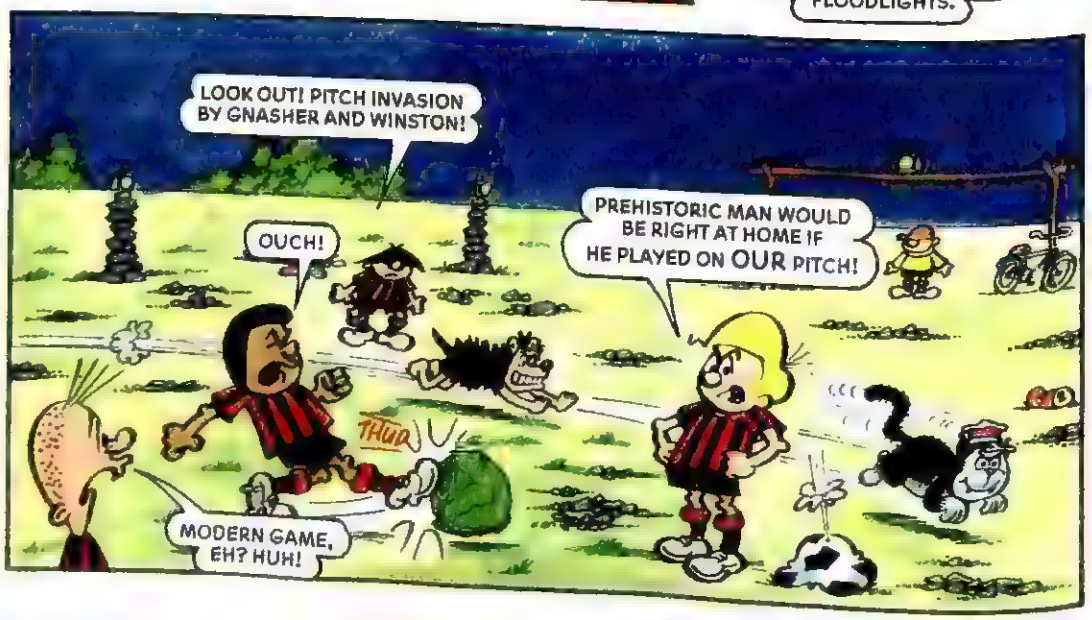
CRUNCH!
AND I WOULDN'T FANCY KICKING A STONE AGE BALL EITHER! OUCH!

GRROOARRGGH!
SHRIEK! IMAGINE IF A DINOSAUR INVADED THE PITCH!

OUCH!
SMASH!
THE MAN WORKING THE SCOREBOARD WOULD GET INJURED EVERY GAME!

GLOW
GLOW
THEY'D HAVE TO USE VOLCANOS INSTEAD OF FLOODLIGHTS.

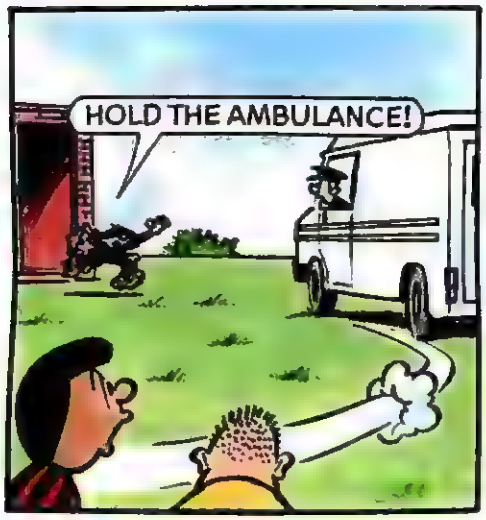
WE'VE A LOT TO BE GRATEFUL FOR IN THE MODERN GAME!
YEAH, FOOTBALL'S COME A LONG WAY IN THE LAST FEW THOUSAND YEARS!


LOOK OUT! PITCH INVASION BY GNASHER AND WINSTON!
OUCH!
PREHISTORIC MAN WOULD BE RIGHT AT HOME IF HE PLAYED ON OUR PITCH!
THUD
MODERN GAME, EH? HUH!

BALL BOY

POOR BALL BOY'S BEING TAKEN TO HOSPITAL!
OH, DEAR! A BAD TACKLE?

NO, READERS HE'S GOT A RATHER LARGE SPLINTER IN HIS REAR FROM A BROKEN SEAT IN THE DRESSING ROOM!


HOLD THE AMBULANCE!

DIMMY SWALLOWED A PIECE OF SOAP WHILE TAKING A SHOWER!
NOT YOU AGAIN!

HERE'S YOUR BED.
WELL I'VE HAD THE SPLINTER REMOVED, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE IT EASY!

DIMMY HAS TO STAY IN TOO UNTIL HE STOPS BLOWING BUBBLES!

THESE CURTAINS AND BEDS MAKE GREAT DRESSING ROOMS!

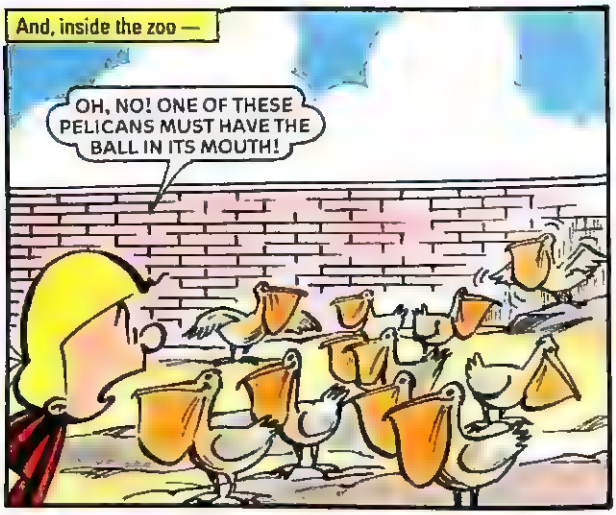
And —
THAT'S ME INTO MY PYJAMA STRIP! NOW FOR THE BIG GAME!
THESE STETHESCOPES ARE IDEAL!

HOSPITAL RADIO D.J.
ARE YOU READY TO DO THE COMMENTARY, MR DISC JOCKEY?
SURE, BALL BOY!

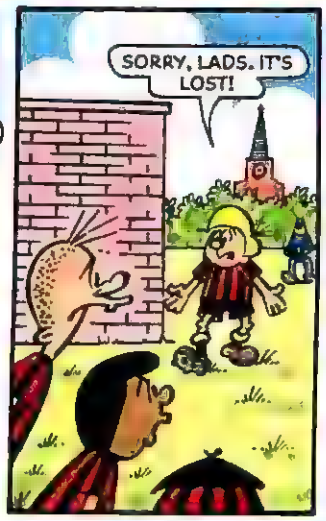
A CHANCE FOR B.B. — OOH! HE'S HIT THE POST!
THIS OPERATING TABLE IS GREAT FOR BLOW FOOTBALL!
WOW!

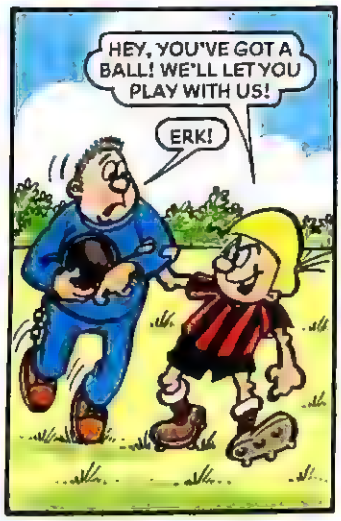
BALL BOY

OOPS! I'LL GET IT!
ZOO


And, inside the zoo —
OH, NO! ONE OF THESE PELICANS MUST HAVE THE BALL IN ITS MOUTH!

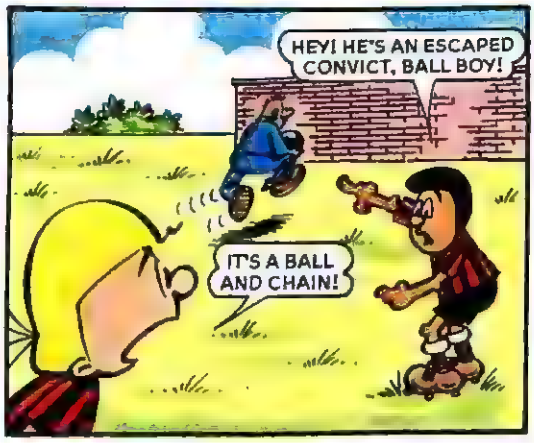
Several minutes later —
COME ON, BALL BOY!
BAH! I'LL NEVER FIND IT AT THIS RATE!

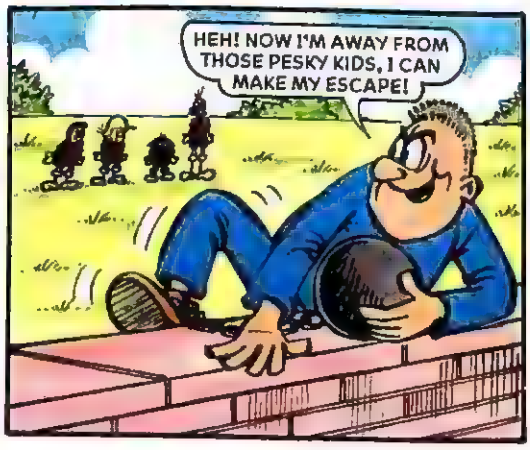

SORRY, LADS. IT'S LOST!


HEY, YOU'VE GOT A BALL! WE'LL LET YOU PLAY WITH US!
ERK!

FUNNY — THE BALL SHOULD BE IN FRONT OF YOU WHEN YOU RUN!

PENALTY!
PANT! IT'S TOO HEAVY TO DRAG BEHIND ME!


HEY! HE'S AN ESCAPED CONVICT, BALL BOY!
IT'S A BALL AND CHAIN!


HEH! NOW I'M AWAY FROM THOSE PESKY KIDS, I CAN MAKE MY ESCAPE!

YEEAARRRUGH!

HA-HA! THE PELICAN PREFERRED THE CONVICT TO OUR BALL!
MUMMY!
HELP!
WE'VE GOT HIM NOW!

BALL BOY

WE LOVE PLAYING IN A FULL MOON!

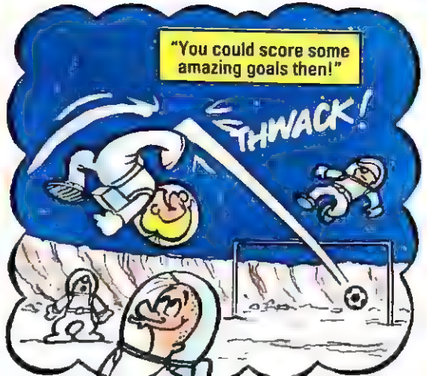
HMM! WONDER IF THERE WILL EVER BE A MATCH ON THE MOON?

"Moon craters would make super football grounds!"

"Teams would have to play in spacesuits!"

"No need to bring corner flags, the last space mission left these ones!"

"The atmosphere's so thin, it's hard not to jump higher than the crossbar!"


"You could score some amazing goals then!"
THWACK!

YAHOO! WHAT A GOAL!
BALL BOY! BALL BOY!

BALL BOY! BALL BOY!
MMM.

OOPS! I'VE BEEN DAYDREAMING!
BALL BOY! BALL BOY!

GRR! WHY DIDN'T YOU GET INTO SPACE?
GET INTO SPACE? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING, EH, READERS?

BALL BOY

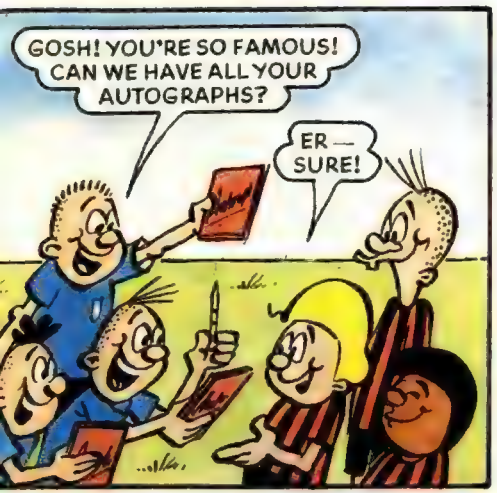
WONDER WHO WE'RE PLAYING TODAY?

Suddenly —
HOORAY!
WOW! IT'S B.B.'S TEAM!
EH?

Soon —
BEFORE WE START, WE'D LIKE TO GET AN EVERLASTING SIGNATURE OF YOU ALL!
BUT HOW?

BY LEAVING YOUR PRINTS IN THE CEMENT!
WOW! JUST LIKE HOLLYWOOD STARS!

So —
THIS IS AN HONOUR!


GOSH! YOU'RE SO FAMOUS! CAN WE HAVE ALL YOUR AUTOGRAPHS?
ER — SURE!

And —
GASP! I'VE ACTUALLY GOT BALL BOY'S AUTOGRAPH!
IT'S NICE TO BE APPRECIATED!

ALLOW US TO CARRY YOUR BAGS!
THAT'S VERY KIND!

But —
OH, NO! THE CEMENT HAS HARDENED!
CACKLE! WE KNOW!

YAHOO! THAT'S 30-0!
SIGH! AT LEAST WE WON'T FALL FOR THAT TRICK AGAIN — IT HAS HARDENED US!

BALL BOY

AARGH!
PHEEP! FOUL!

THAT'S IT! I'M GOING TO THROW THE BOOK AT YOU!
RUBBISH, REF! YOU NEED GLASSES! HE'S A CHEAT!
HEH!

THAT'S FOR KICKING THE BALL AWAY, DISSENT, UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR . . .
WAAAAH!

WAAAAH! PHEW! IT WAS ONLY A DREAM!

Match day —
IF I GET ONE MORE YELLOW CARD, I'LL BE SUSPENDED, YOU SEE!

So —
GOOD LUCK, REF! HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD GAME AND IT'S PLAYED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE SPIRIT!
ER . . . OK!

Game on —
HMM! CAN'T RISK TACKLING HIM!

ON YOU GO!
HEH! EASY!

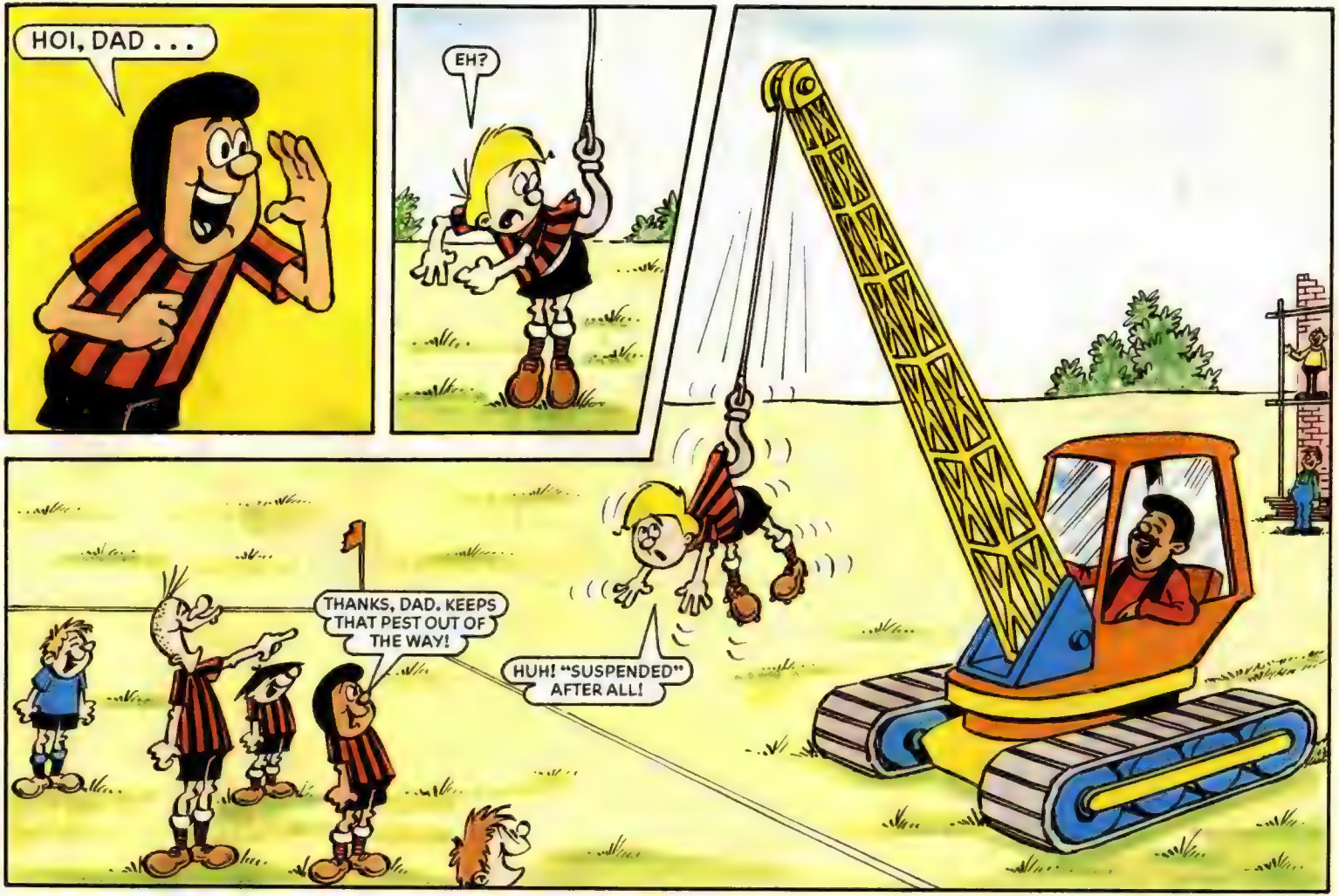
Later —
BAH! ROBBED!
GOOD TACKLE, BALL BOY!

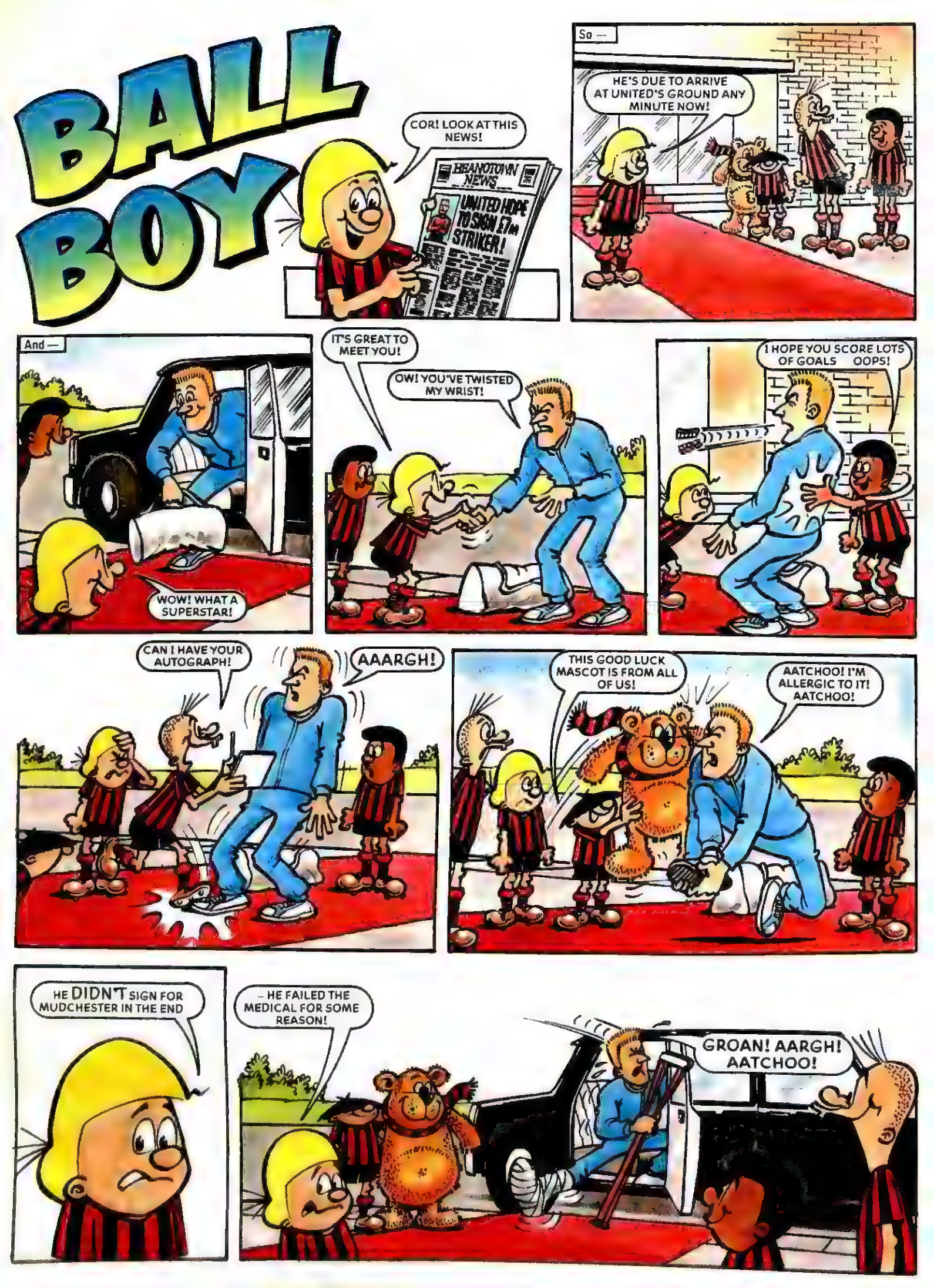
YES, YOU CERTAINLY WERE! HERE, HAVE THE BALL BACK!
ER . . . TA!

GRR! YOU LET HIM SCORE!
ANOTHER GOAL!

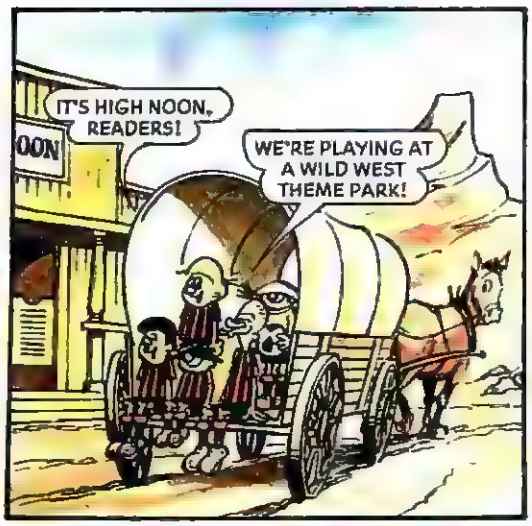
YES, IT WAS A CRACKING GOAL, WASN'T IT? WELL DONE!

Full time —
NO RISK OF SUSPENSION NOW! WHAT A RELIEF!
GRR! YOU COST US THE GAME!


HOI, DAD . . .
EH?
THANKS, DAD. KEEPS THAT PEST OUT OF THE WAY!
HUH! "SUSPENDED" AFTER ALL!

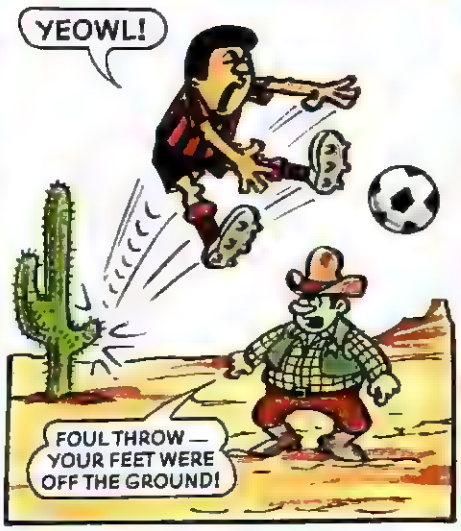

BALL BOY
COR! LOOK AT THIS NEWS!
BEANOTOWN NEWS
UNITED HOPE TO SIGN £7M STRIKER!
So —
HE'S DUE TO ARRIVE AT UNITED'S GROUND ANY MINUTE NOW!
And —
WOW! WHAT A SUPERSTAR!
IT'S GREAT TO MEET YOU!
OW! YOU'VE TWISTED MY WRIST!
I HOPE YOU SCORE LOTS OF GOALS OOPS!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH!
AAARGH!
THIS GOOD LUCK MASCOT IS FROM ALL OF US!
AATCHOO! I'M ALLERGIC TO IT! AATCHOO!
HE DIDN'T SIGN FOR MUDCHESTER IN THE END
– HE FAILED THE MEDICAL FOR SOME REASON!
GROAN! AARGH! AATCHOO!

BALL BOY

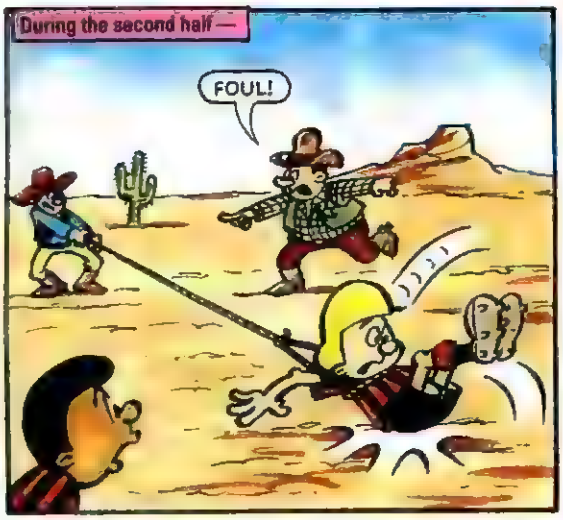

IT'S HIGH NOON, READERS!
WE'RE PLAYING AT A WILD WEST THEME PARK!

Game on —
BAH! THEY'VE GOT SALOON DOORS ON THE GOAL!

Later —
OUR THROW-IN!

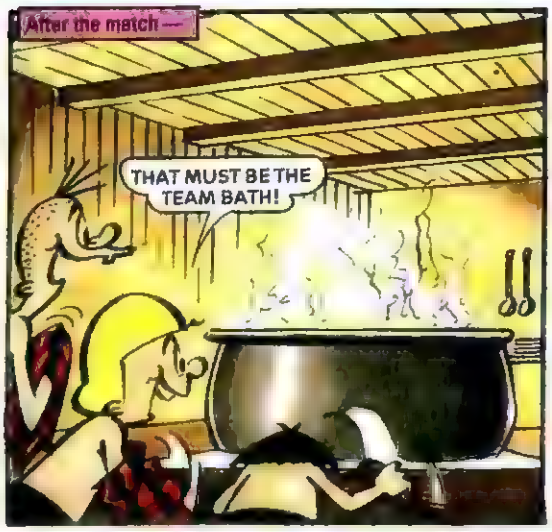

YEOWL!
FOUL THROW — YOUR FEET WERE OFF THE GROUND!

At half-time —
WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SERVE US THE REFRESHMENTS!
OOPS!


During the second half —
FOUL!

OH, NO! MY HEEL HAS COME OFF!
DON'T WORRY, BALL BOY!

WE HAVE A VERY GOOD BLACKSMITH!
WOW!


After the match —
THAT MUST BE THE TEAM BATH!

PRRRRP!

BAH! WE'VE JUMPED INTO THE AFTER-MATCH FEED!
YEAH! WE COWBOYS SURE DO LIKE BEANS!

BALL BOY

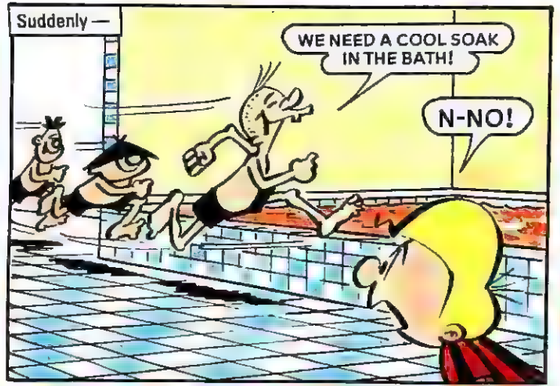
PHEW! IT'S REALLY HOT TODAY!

OH, NO! THE PLASTIC COATING ON THE BALL HAS MELTED TO THE PITCH!

HEY! THIS ISN'T TIME TO SUNBATHE!
BUT IT'S TOO HOT TO PLAY, BALL BOY!

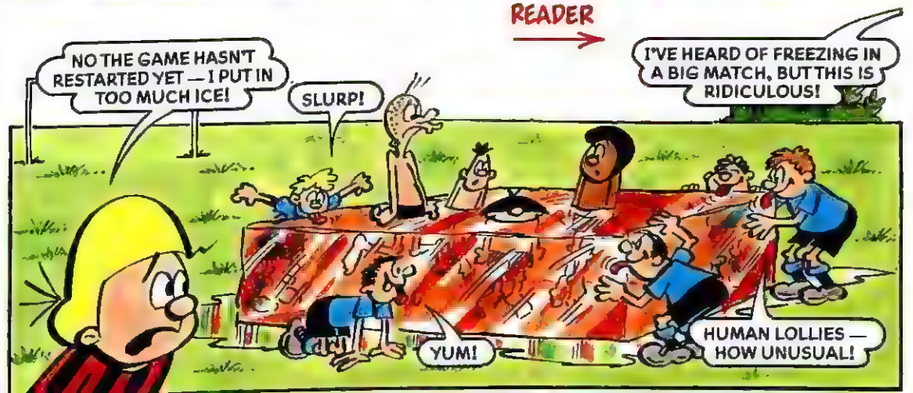
So —
DRESSING ROOM
I HAVE AN IDEA.

ORANGE JUICE
I'LL FILL THE TEAM BATH WITH ORANGE JUICE AND ICE CUBES! THEN, THEY CAN DRINK AS MUCH AS THEY LIKE!


Suddenly —
WE NEED A COOL SOAK IN THE BATH!
N-NO!

SPLADOOSH!

SIGH! THE TEAM ARE TAKING A REAL LICKING.
READER
OH, NO! IS IT, 10-0? 20-0?


READER
NO THE GAME HASN'T RESTARTED YET — I PUT IN TOO MUCH ICE!
SLURP!
I'VE HEARD OF FREEZING IN A BIG MATCH, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
YUM!
HUMAN LOLLIES — HOW UNUSUAL!

BALL
BOY

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

I'LL GO AND GET SOME JUICE AND CRISPS TO CELEBRATE!
GOOD IDEA, DIMMY!

After a while —
OKAY, LET'S START DIGGING UPWARDS!

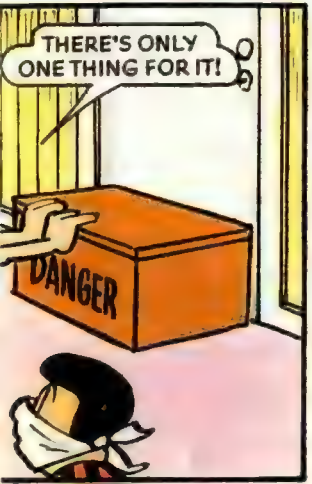
But —
BAH! WE'RE STILL IN THE DRESSING ROOM!

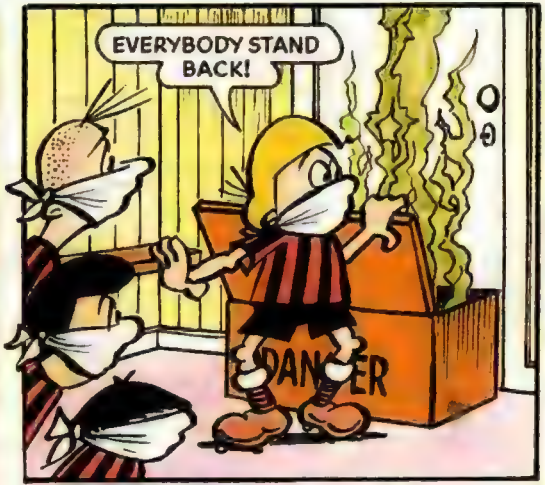
So —

OOPS! THE KEY'S SNAPPED IN THE LOCK!
WE'RE LOCKED IN!
SNAP!

HELP!
NO-ONE WILL HEAR YOU — THEY'VE ALL GONE HOME!
LET US OUT!

LOOK! THE GROUNDSMAN'S TOOLS!
WE COULD TUNNEL OUT!


THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR IT!
DANGER


EVERYBODY STAND BACK!
DANGER

FWOOSH!
HA-HA! THE FUMES FROM OUR SWEATY SOCKS HAVE BLOWN THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES!

BALL
BOY

WE'VE PLAYED ON SOME STRANGE PITCHES THIS SEASON!
YEAH! REMEMBER WHEN WE PLAYED ON THE SMALLEST ONE IN THE LEAGUE?

HA! HA! THE BALL HARDLY WENT OUT OF PLAY!

COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
NOT THE HEALTHIEST OF PITCHES!

BUT WE'VE GOT THE BEST PITCH OF ALL!

But —
BAD NEWS! OUR DADS HAVE SPOILED THE PITCH!

EVER
WET STREET UNITED HAVE THEIR GROUND AT THE BOTTOM OF A VALLEY.
NEVER AN EASY PLACE TO PLAY WHEN IT'S BEEN RAINING!
WHAT ABOUT THE PITCH NEXT TO THAT FACTORY!
BAH! THEY'VE TURNED IT INTO AN ALLOTMENT!
STILL, THESE CABBAGES AND CAULIFLOWERS ARE GREAT FOR SHOOTING PRACTICE!
EEK! OUR LOVELY VEGGIES!

BALL BOY

HEADS OR TAILS?

I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T GAMBLE!
EH? IT'S ONLY FOR KICK-OFF!

MY TEAM WILL KICK OFF THEN, OKAY?
ER — HAVE YOU WASHED YOUR HANDS?

CHORTLE! THEY'RE THE MOST CLEAN-LIVING, HONEST AND TRUTHFUL TEAM IN THE LEAGUE!

WOW! WHAT A GOAL! WELL WORTH CELEBRATING, I'D SAY!

But —
WHISPER — WE DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY NOISE POLLUTION!
PHEW! YOU LOT ARE UNBELIEVABLE!

Suddenly —
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

OUCH! REFEREE!
OW!

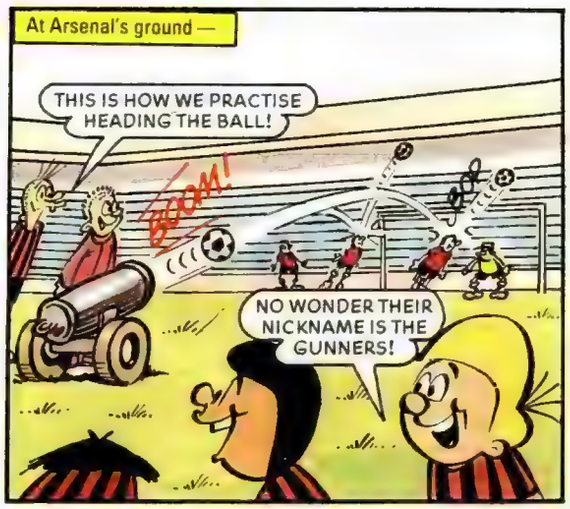
I'M BOOKING THE LOT OF YOU!
WE NEVER TOUCHED THEM!
YOU NEED GLASSES, REF!

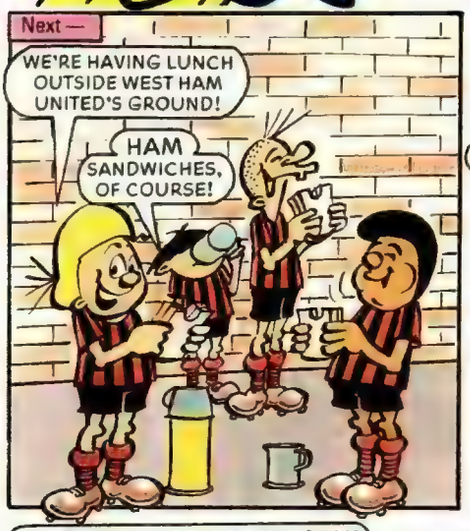
OUR COACH TOLD US THAT WALTER THE SOFTY WOULD COME ON IF WE SCORED A GOAL!
HOW UNCOUTH, RUDE AND MUDDY! I COULD NEVER PLAY FOR YOU RUFFIANS!

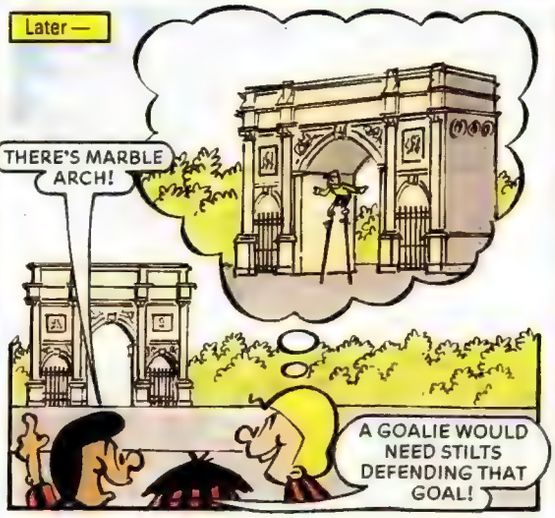
HA-HA! EVEN A CLEAN-CUT BUNCH LIKE YOU COULDN'T STAND THE LIKES OF WALTER IN YOUR TEAM!
OFF A-DAISY HUNTING I GO!

BALL BOY

WE'RE TOURING LONDON AND SOME OF ITS FAMOUS FOOTBALL GROUNDS!
SNAP!

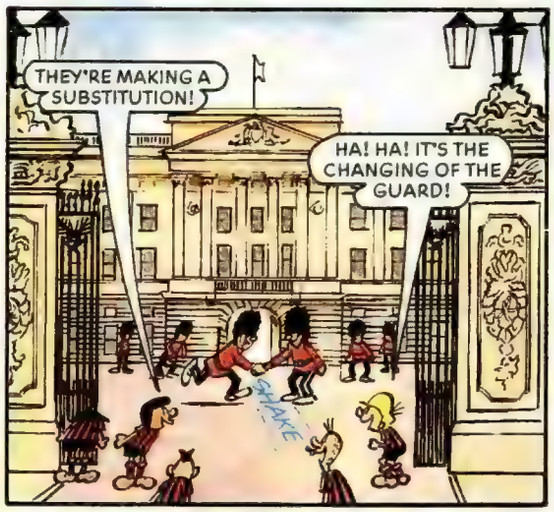

At Arsenal's ground —
THIS IS HOW WE PRACTISE HEADING THE BALL!
BOOM!
NO WONDER THEIR NICKNAME IS THE GUNNERS!


Next —
WE'RE HAVING LUNCH OUTSIDE WEST HAM UNITED'S GROUND!
HAM SANDWICHES, OF COURSE!


Later —
THERE'S MARBLE ARCH!
A GOALIE WOULD NEED STILTS DEFENDING THAT GOAL!

WE'VE TURNED TRAFALGAR SQUARE INTO A PITCH!
BOOT
THUD

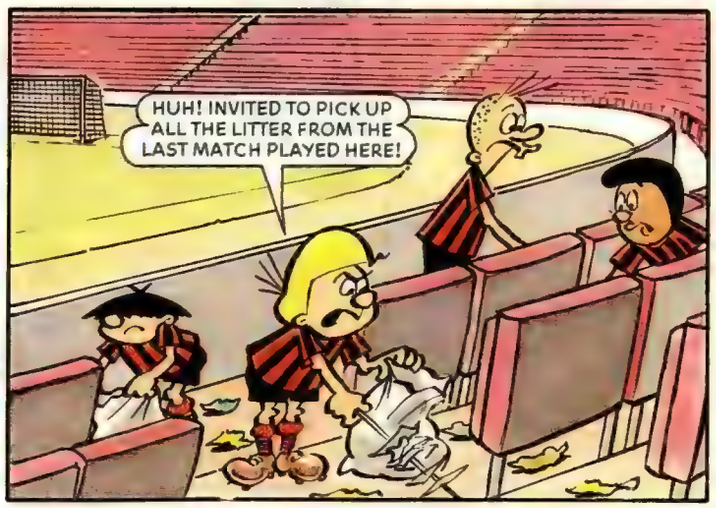
SO THAT'S WHAT THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE GUARDS DO WHEN THEY'RE OFF-DUTY!


THEY'RE MAKING A SUBSTITUTION!
HA! HA! IT'S THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD!
SHAKE

Next —
WE'VE ALL BEEN MADE BALL BOYS FOR FULHAM'S TRAINING GROUND NEXT TO THE THAMES.

And —
WE'RE WATCHING WIMBLEDON TRAIN!
NO WONDER THEY'RE NICKNAMED 'THE CRAZY GANG'!
CHEAT!

BUT BEST OF ALL — WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO WEMBLEY STADIUM!


HUH! INVITED TO PICK UP ALL THE LITTER FROM THE LAST MATCH PLAYED HERE!

BALL
BOY

WE'LL KICK OFF!
WAIT A MINUTE!

. . . ELEVEN . . . TWELVE . . .

HEY! YOU'VE GOT TOO MANY ON YOUR SIDE!

I KNOW, BUT WE'RE GOING TO A "BEST PET" SHOW AFTER THE GAME!
WELL, OKAY THEN!

Game on —
OUCH!
AARGH!

BAH! BAD IDEA TAKING ALONG MY WHIPPET!

Next —
OH, NO! WHERE'S THE GOALIE!

ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
OH, NO! TRUST HIM TO HAVE A PET BAT!

And —
MATCH ABANDONED! TOTAL CHAOS!

SIGH! AT LEAST YOU DIDN'T UPSET EVERYTHING BY BRINGING A PET!
OH, BUT I DID!

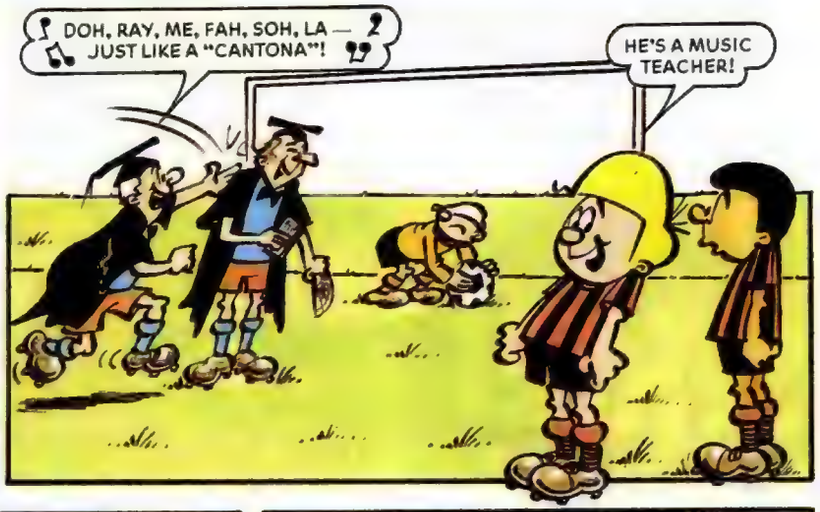
MEET MY PET TARANTULA!
WAAAH!
HA-HA! YOU'D NEVER KNOW TITCH HAD A SPIDER ON HIS HEAD.

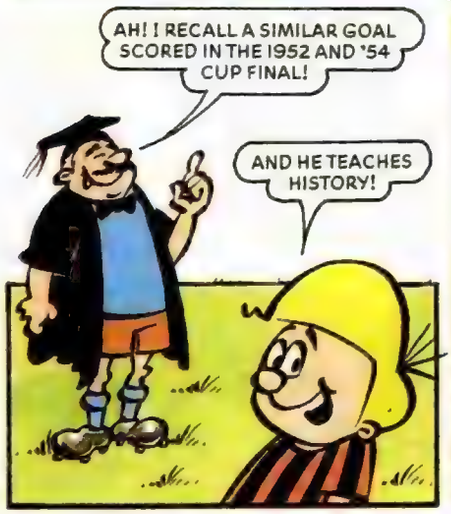
BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST THE CLEVEREST TEAM IN THE LEAGUE!

NOW IF I MOVE THE BALL AT EIGHTEEN MILES PER HOUR AT AN ANGLE OF THIRTY SEVEN DEGREES IN THREE SECONDS TIME . . .

. . . I'LL SCORE!
WOW! NOW THAT'S CLEVER!


DOH, RAY, ME, FAH, SOH, LA — JUST LIKE A "CANTONA"!
HE'S A MUSIC TEACHER!


AH! I RECALL A SIMILAR GOAL SCORED IN THE 1952 AND '54 CUP FINAL!
AND HE TEACHES HISTORY!

Full time —
HARD LUCK! C'EST LA VIE! MALA SUERTE!
HA! HA! WELL DONE, LANGUAGES TEACHER!

LET'S SWAP SHIRTS, BALL BOY!
NO WAY!

COME ON, BALL BOY! THAT'S NOT VERY SPORTING!
READER
OH, WE'RE NOT IN THE HUFF! WE JUST WANT TO SWAP THEM SOMETHING ELSE!

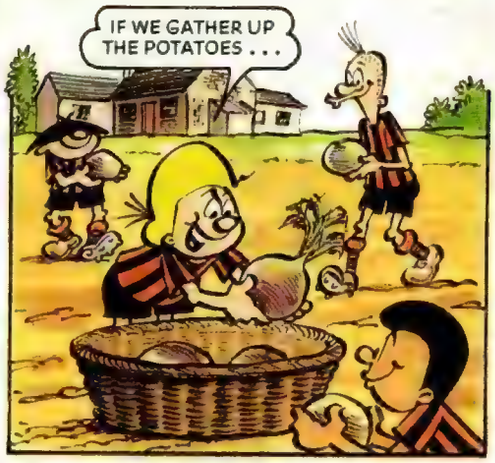
OUR HOMEWORK JOTTERS!
HA! HA! ANYTHING TO HELP! WE'D JUST LOVE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOMEWORK!

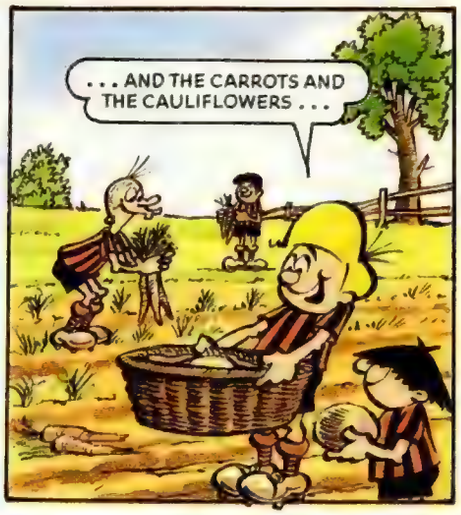
BALL BOY

TO YOU, BALL BOY!

BAH! THIS SURFACE IS JUST LIKE A PLOUGHED FIELD.

HA! HA! THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS!
OUR NORMAL PITCH IS WATERLOGGED, SO FARMER BROWN'S LET US PLAY IN HIS FIELD.


IF WE GATHER UP THE POTATOES . . .


. . . AND THE CARROTS AND THE CAULIFLOWERS . . .

. . . AND THE LETTUCES AND THE PEAS, WE CAN BUILD THE OPPOSITION!

Until —
THIS IS MORE FUN THAN BUILDING SNOWMEN!

CHORTLE! GREAT FOR DRIBBLING PRACTICE!

NOT ONLY DO THEY MAKE GREAT OPPONENTS . . .

. . . BUT THEY MAKE A BRILLIANT AFTER-MATCH MEAL, TOO!
LOVELY VEG SOUP!

BALL BOY

LET'S HAVE A COMPETITION TO SEE WHO CAN KICK THE BALL THE FURTHEST!

So —
WOW! WHAT A KICK, DIMMY!

ME NEXT! ME NEXT!
ER — THAT WAS THE ONLY BALL WE'VE GOT!

IT'S YOUR GAME — YOU GET IT!

Quite a while later —
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

IF WE ATTACH THE TAPE MEASURE TO THE BALL, WE CAN PULL IT BACK!
AND WE'LL KNOW HOW FAR IT'S BEEN KICKED!

So —
WOW! WHAT A GREAT KICK, BALL BOY!

IT SEEMS TO BE STUCK!

H-E-A-V-E!

Until —
ER — CAN WE HAVE OUR BALL BACK, PLEASE?
WE FOUND THIS BALL AND STARTED A GAME!

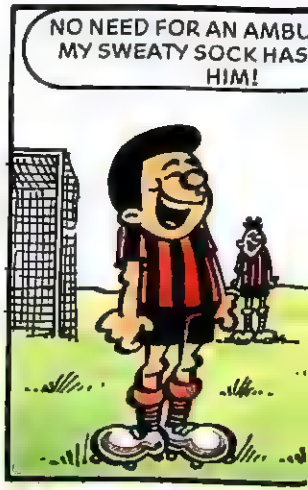
BALL BOY

THIS PORTABLE PHONE COMES IN HANDY FOR EMERGENCIES.

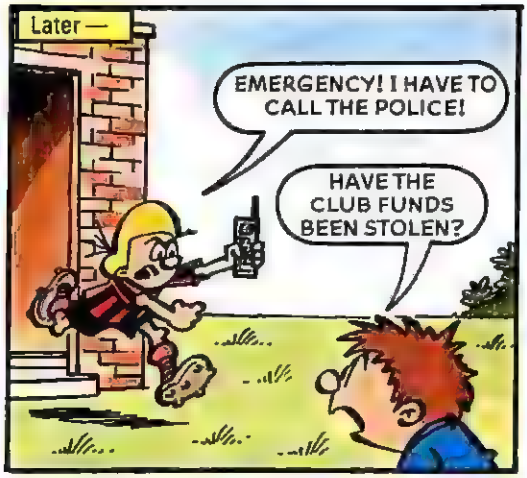
I'VE CALLED OUT THE FIRE BRIGADE.
HAS VIC VOLCANO SET FIRE TO THE DRESSING-ROOM?

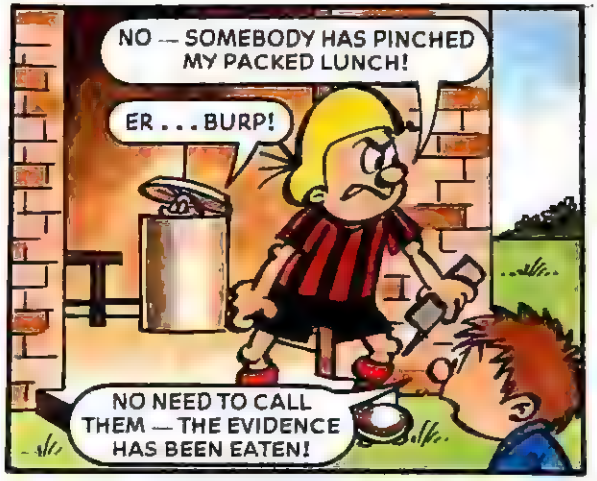
Much later —
BETTER RING FOR AN AMBULANCE NOW!

OUR SUPPORTER FAINTED WHEN YOU SCORED THAT GOAL, BENJY!
NO WONDER — IT SHOCKED ME TOO!


NO NEED FOR AN AMBU
MY SWEATY SOCK HAS
HIM!

OUT YOU COME, YOU DAFT LAD!
NO, DIMMY'S GOT HIS HEAD STUCK IN THE NET!


Later —
EMERGENCY! I HAVE TO CALL THE POLICE!
HAVE THE CLUB FUNDS BEEN STOLEN?


NO — SOMEBODY HAS PINCHED MY PACKED LUNCH!
ER . . . BURP!
NO NEED TO CALL THEM — THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN EATEN!

LANCE — REVIVED
EURGH!

Soon —
MAYBE I SHOULD CALL THE RIOT SQUAD — THERE'S ABSOLUTE MAYHEM IN THE DRESSING-ROOM!

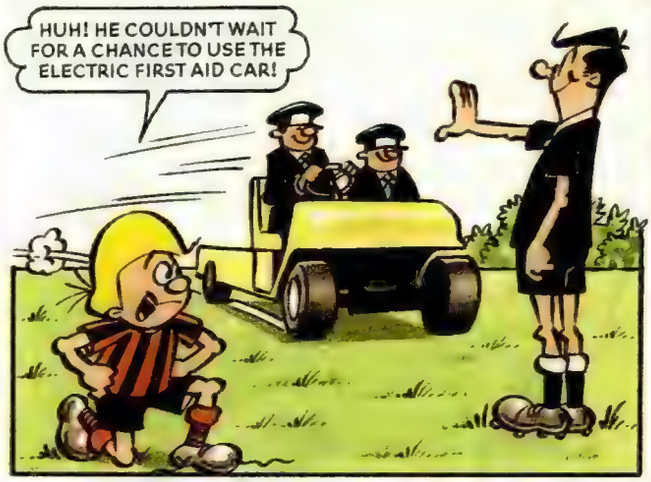
I'M WATCHING THE ITALIAN FOOTBALL!
PREMIER LEAGUE!
SATELLITE!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THERE'S A MATCH ON EVERY CHANNEL!

BALL BOY

READY?
HOLD ON A MINUTE, REF!

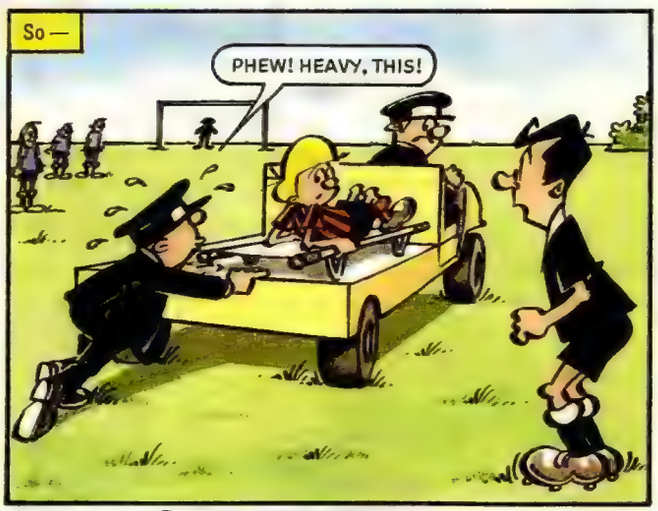
But —
OH, NO!
SNAP!

BRING ON THE STRETCHER!

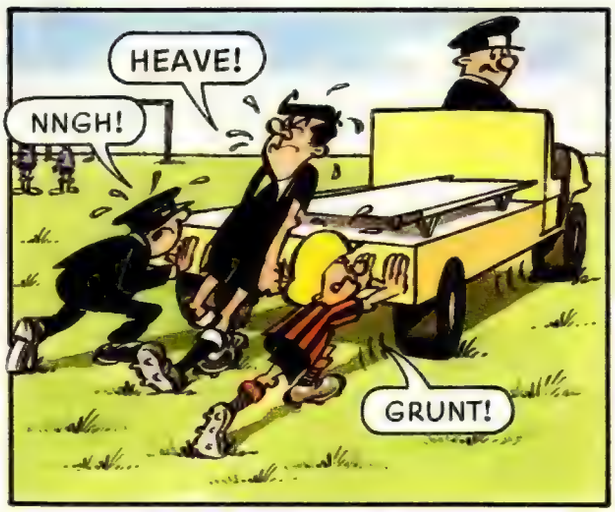

HUH! HE COULDN'T WAIT FOR A CHANCE TO USE THE ELECTRIC FIRST AID CAR!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
ONLY FOLLOWING THE REFEREE'S GUIDELINES, BALL BOY!

But —
OH, NO! I FORGOT TO RE-CHARGE THE BATTERY LAST NIGHT!
PUTT!
PUTT!


So —
PHEW! HEAVY, THIS!

I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO HELP!


HEAVE!
NNGH!
GRUNT!

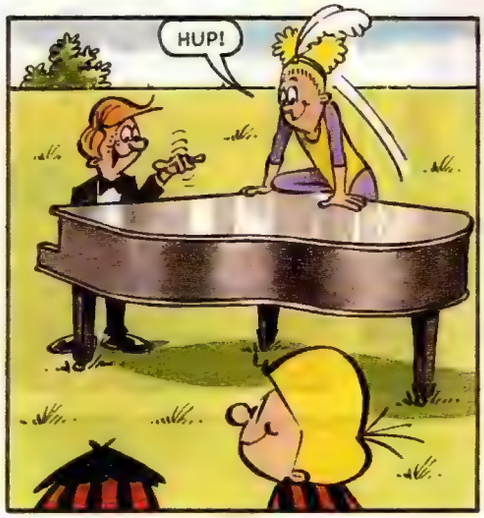
THANK GOODNESS! NOW WE CAN GET ON WITH THE GAME!

But —
SORRY, BALL BOY, YOU DON'T LOOK FIT TO PLAY!
7
SHEESH! I NEVER EVEN GOT A KICK OF THE BALL!

BALL BOY

CAN WE PROVIDE THE PRE-MATCH ENTERTAINMENT?
SURE! WHY NOT?

So —
WOW! A GRAND PIANO!


HUP!

THEY'RE GREAT!

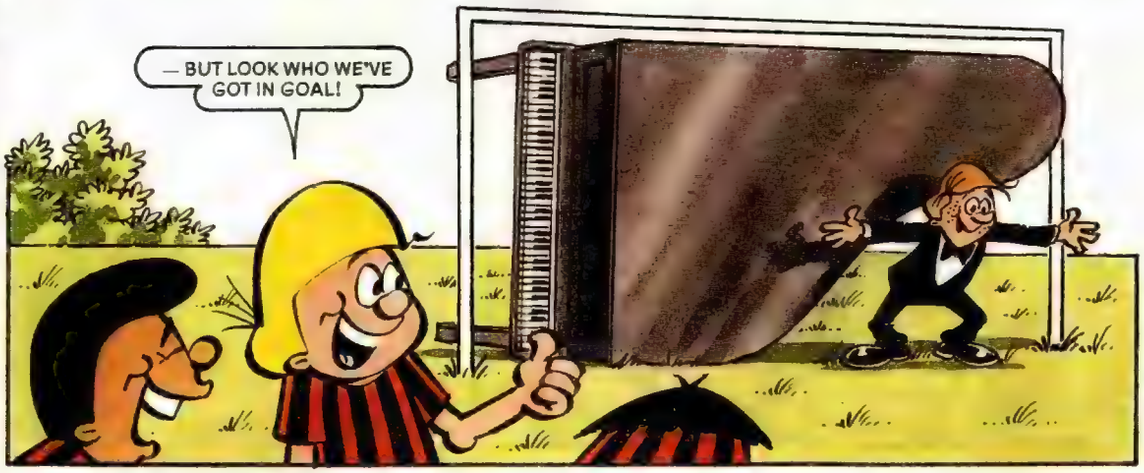
Then —
BALL BOY! WE'RE TWO PLAYERS SHORT!

MAYBE YOU TWO COULD PLAY?
OK!

So —
TO YOU!
TA!

YES! WHAT A SHOT!
PHEW!

WE'RE SURE TO WIN. NOT ONLY IS OUR NEW GIRL STRIKER BRILLIANT —

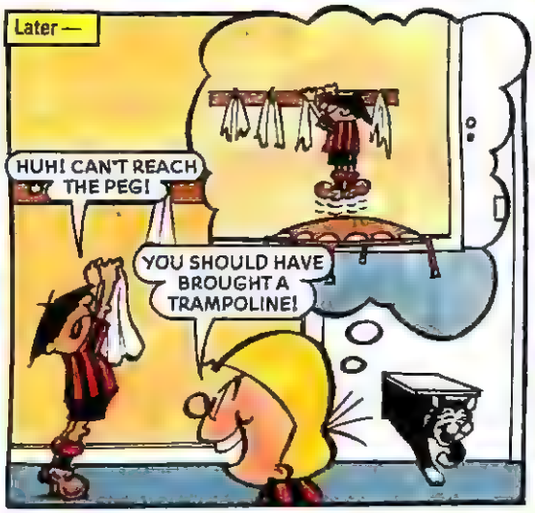

— BUT LOOK WHO WE'VE GOT IN GOAL!

BALL BOY

At Mudchester United's ground —
AAARRGH! THERE'S A CREEPY HAND TRYING TO GET INTO THE MATCH!

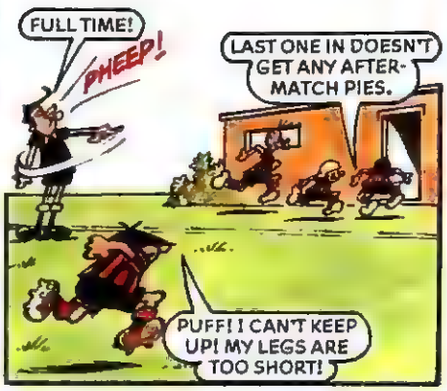
DON'T WORRY, MISTER! IT'S ONLY TITCH, OUR SMALLEST PLAYER!

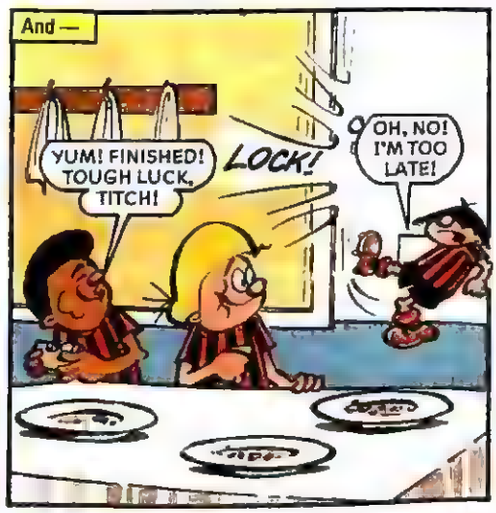
YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT STILTS, TITCH!
BAH! CAN'T SEE A THING!


Later —
HUH! CAN'T REACH THE PEG!
YOU SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A TRAMPOLINE!

During a game —
GET READY FOR THIS CROSS!

EASY!
BAH! THE BALL IS TOO HIGH!
YOU SHOULD HAVE SPRINGS ON YOUR BOOTS, TITCH!


FULL TIME!
PHEEP!
LAST ONE IN DOESN'T GET ANY AFTER-MATCH PIES.
PUFF! I CAN'T KEEP UP! MY LEGS ARE TOO SHORT!

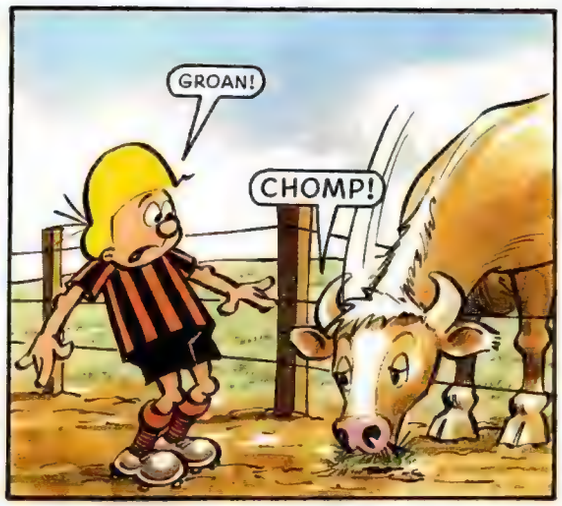

And —
YUM! FINISHED! TOUGH LUCK, TITCH!
LOCK!
OH, NO! I'M TOO LATE!

Then —
OOPS! I'VE DROPPED THE KEY DOWN THE DRAIN!
ERK! WE'RE LOCKED IN!

CHORTLE! I CAN SQUEEZE THROUGH THE CAT-FLAP! BEING SMALL DOES HAVE ITS ADVANTAGES!

BALL BOY

SIGH! THERE'S ONLY ONE TUFT OF GRASS LEFT ON OUR PITCH!


GROAN!
CHOMP!

So —
WE'LL SAND THE PITCH!

But —
BAH! PESKY SANDCASTLE BUILDERS!

MY DAD'S GIVEN US SOME GRASS SEED!
THAT'S GREAT, DIMMY!

But a couple of weeks later —
OH, NO! DIMMY'S DAFT DAD'S GIVEN US FLOWER SEEDS — NOT GRASS SEEDS!

Then —
OOO! HOW LOVELY!

TRA-LA-LA!

I'M GLAD WALTER AND HIS PALS PICKED THE FLOWERS —

— THEY'RE SEWING THE PITCH BACK TOGETHER FOR US!
AS THANKS FOR THESE DELIGHTFUL BLOOMS.
WOOL

BALL BOY

WE'RE PLAYING A TEAM OVER FROM JAPAN!
GREETINGS, HONOURABLE BALL BOY!

WOW! THEY'RE BIG LADS!
THEY ARE ALSO SUMO WRESTLERS!

And, during the game —
OOF! I WISH THEY'D FORGET THAT THEY'RE SUMO WRESTLERS!
OUCH!

WE'VE PREPARED A JAPANESE MEAL IN YOUR HONOUR!
FULLTIME! AARGH!

And —
YOUR MEAL IS DELICIOUS!
YUM!

Soon —
THEY'VE EATEN SO MUCH THAT THEY'VE DOUBLED IN SIZE!
CHARGE!

OOPS!

WE WILL REPLACE YOUR DRESSING-ROOMS!
WHAT? WITH A ROLL OF PAPER?

But —
WE ARE EXPERTS IN ORAGAMI, THE ART OF PAPER-FOLDING!
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

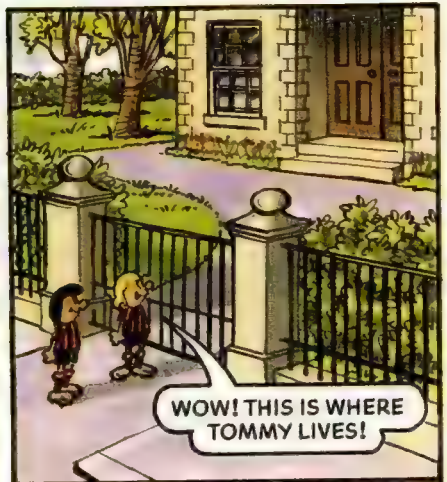
WE LOVE COLLECTING FOOTBALL CARDS!

MY COLLECTION IS COMPLETE APART FROM NUMBER 37 — TOMMY TURNIP!
TRADE A SWAP FOR HIM.

But —

SO I'M GOING TO PHOTOGRAPH HIM MYSELF!
GOOD IDEA!

At the training ground —
TOMMY'S AT HOME, BALL BOY!


WOW! THIS IS WHERE TOMMY LIVES!

SORRY, BALL BOY, I'M AFTER NUMBER 37 TOO!

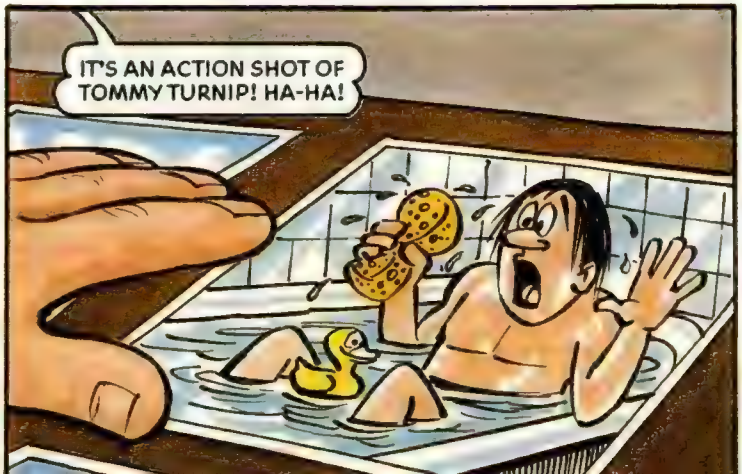
I'M GOING TO BUY MORE CARDS AND SEE IF IT TURNS UP IN MY PACKET!

But —
BAH! IT'S NOT THERE! I'M GOING TO PHONE THE COMPANY AND ASK THEM TO SEND IT TO ME!

But —
THEY SAY TOMMY TURNIP DIDN'T TURN UP TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED THAT DAY!

SORRY, YOUNG SIRS, BUT MR TURNIP IS NOT HAVING ANY VISITORS TODAY!
HMM! I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY!

So —
GOT HIM AT LAST!
WAAAH!


IT'S AN ACTION SHOT OF TOMMY TURNIP! HA-HA!

BALL BOY

WE'RE TOURING MUDCHESTER UNITED'S GROUND TODAY!

WOW! LOOK AT ALL THEIR TROPHIES!
TROPHY ROOM

But —
HA-HA! NONE OF THEM HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH FOOTBALL!
LUDO CHAMPION
BEST-DRESSED CAPTAIN 1996
1996 TURNIP GROWING CHAMPION

LET'S HAVE A LOOK IN THE DRESSING-ROOM!

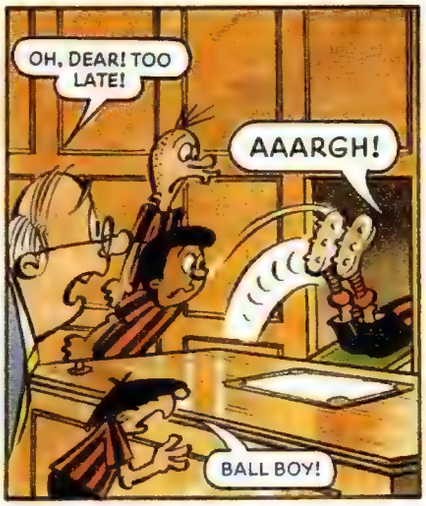
EEK! GHOSTS!
THESE ROOMS ARE HAUNTED!

WE'RE NOT GHOSTS — WE WERE HAVING A SAUNA!
PHEW!

Next —
LET'S GO INTO THE MANAGER'S OFFICE!

YOU'RE IN THE HOTTEST SEAT IN FOOTBALL!
I KNOW! HA-HA!

CHAIRMAN
I WONDER WHAT THIS BUTTON IS FOR?
DON'T PRESS THAT!


OH, DEAR! TOO LATE!
AAARGH!
BALL BOY!

HA-HA! SO THAT'S HOW THE CHAIRMAN GETS RID OF UNWANTED MANAGERS!
GROAN! WHO'D BE A FOOTBALL MANAGER?
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

WHERE'S YOUR TOP, DIMMY?
MY DOG'S GOT IT!

ERK! IT WILL BE RIPPED TO SHREDS!

NO, NO! HE'S WEARING IT! MY MUM THOUGHT SHE WAS DRESSING ME AND NOW I CAN'T GET IT BACK!
SN-A-A-RL!
AH, WELL — THE GAME MUST GO ON!

I CAN'T PLAY EITHER, BALL BOY — MY MUM WASHED MY SHORTS ON THE WRONG MACHINE PROGRAMME!
WHICH ONE, TITCH?

A VERY HOT ONE AND THEY'VE SHRUNK! GROAN!
AH, WELL — THE GAME MUST GO ON!

Then —
ARE YOU BALL BOY?
ER — YES!

YOU'VE HAD YOUR BICYCLE STOLEN!
OH, NO! THE GAME CAN'T GO ON!

NO NEED TO SAY THAT, BALL BOY. WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO FIND IT!

BUT IT WILL BE TOO LATE BY THEN!
TOO LATE FOR WHAT?

HA-HA!
TO GET MY BIKE PUMP TO INFLATE THE MATCH BALL!

BALL BOY

YES! GREAT GOAL! TIME FOR MY JURGEN KLINSMANN STYLE CELEBRATION!

YAHOO!

Suddenly —
GASP! BALL BOY'S DISAPPEARED!

Under the pitch —
WOW! AN OLD MINE SHAFT UNDER THE PITCH!

I'LL HAVE TO DIG MYSELF OUT!

I'M ALMOST THROUGH!

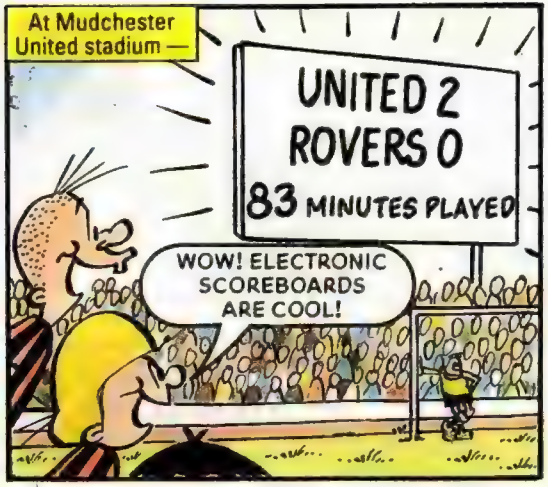
Until —
I'LL TAKE THIS PENALTY!
I'M THROUGH! I'LL JUST POP MY HEAD OUT!

I'M BACK — OOPS!
OOO!

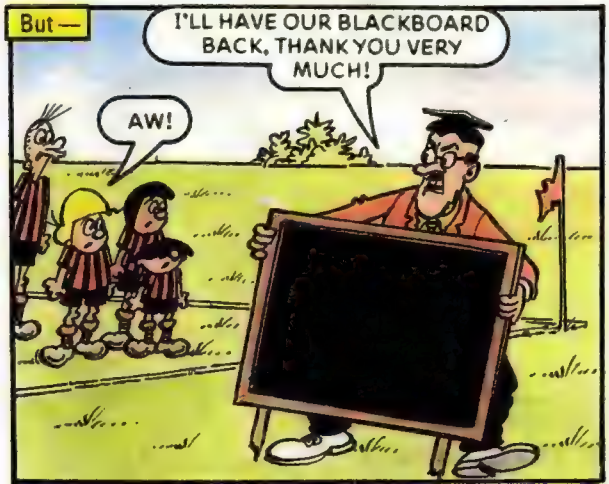
IT'S A GOAL!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE SCORE A PENALTY WITH A HEADER BEFORE!
NO MORE FANCY CELEBRATIONS FROM ME, THOUGH JUST A POLITE HANDSHAKE! HA-HA!

BALL
BOY


At Mudchester United stadium —
UNITED 2
ROVERS 0
83 MINUTES PLAYED
WOW! ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARDS ARE COOL!

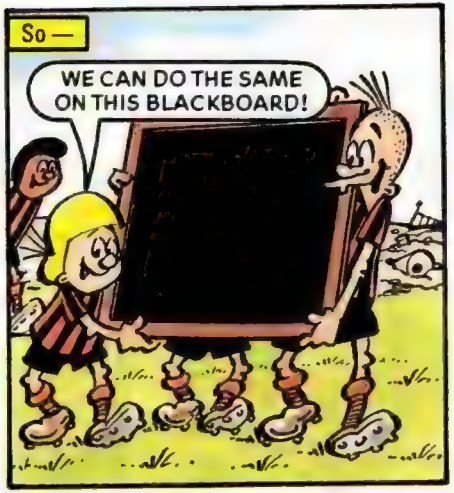
WOW! GREAT GRAPHICS!


But —
I'LL HAVE OUR BLACKBOARD BACK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
AW!

LOOK! IT'S THE UNITED CHAIRMAN — MAYBE HE COULD LEND US THEIR SCOREBOARD!
I'LL ASK HIM . . .

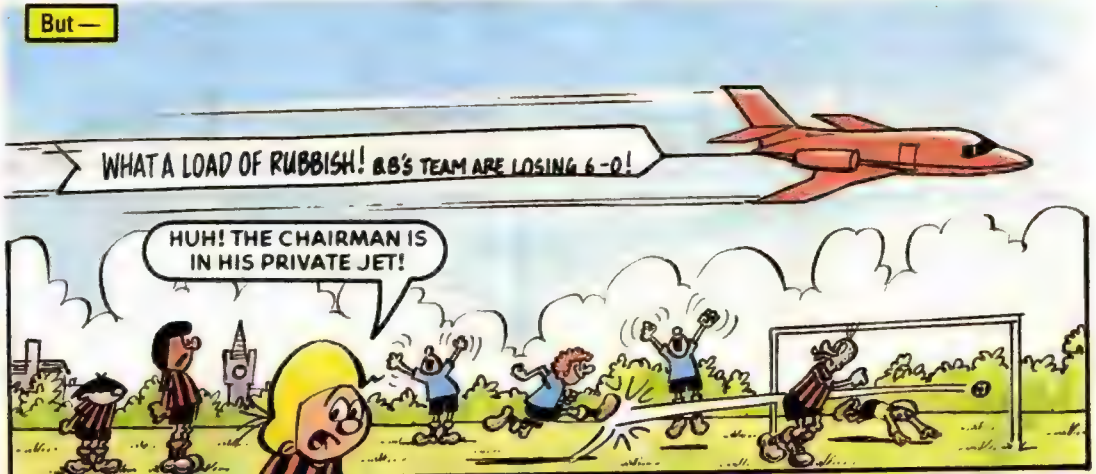
LEND YOU OUR SCOREBOARD? HAW! HAW! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO THEN!

THEY EVEN KEEP YOU UP TO DATE WITH OTHER MATCHES!
MUDCHESTER CITY HAVE JUST MISSED A PENALTY HA! HA! HA!

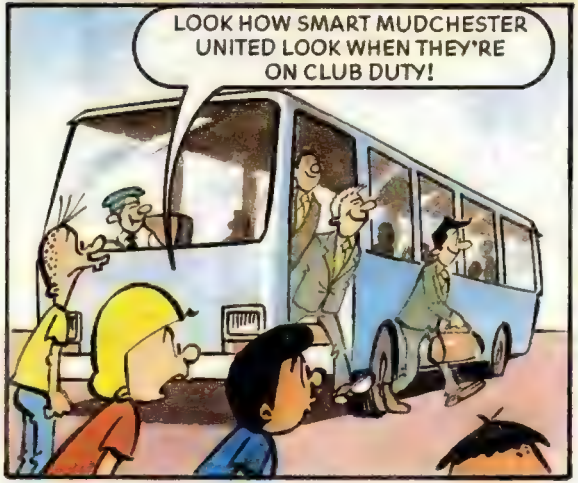

So —
WE CAN DO THE SAME ON THIS BLACKBOARD!

TITCH SCORED FROM A DEFLECTION BY DIMMY IN THE FIRST MINUTE!
I'LL WRITE THAT DOWN!

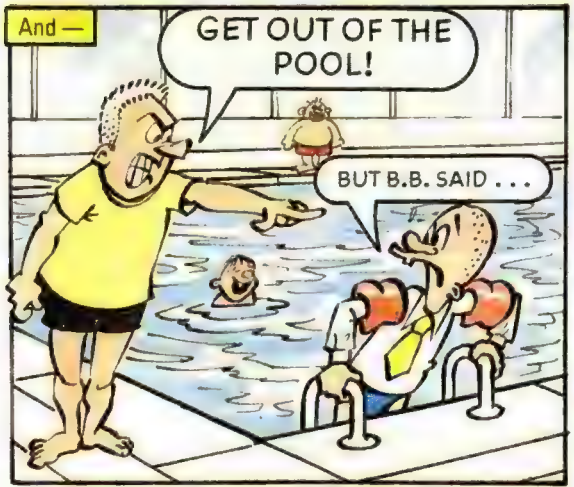
BUT I WILL PROVIDE A SCOREBOARD FOR YOUR NEXT GAME!
THANKS, CHAIRMAN!

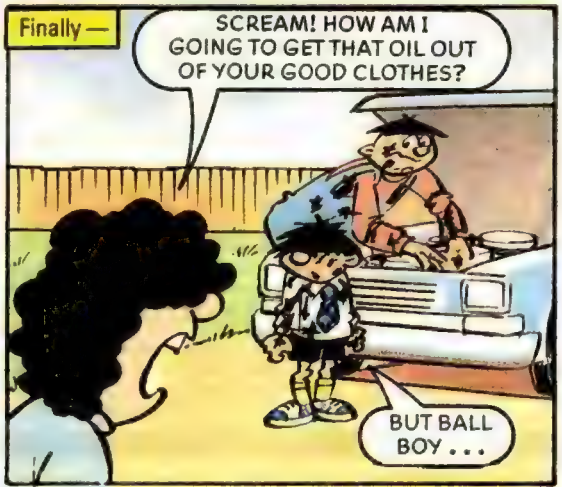

But —
WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH! B.B.'S TEAM ARE LOSING 6-0!
HUH! THE CHAIRMAN IS IN HIS PRIVATE JET!

BALL
BOY

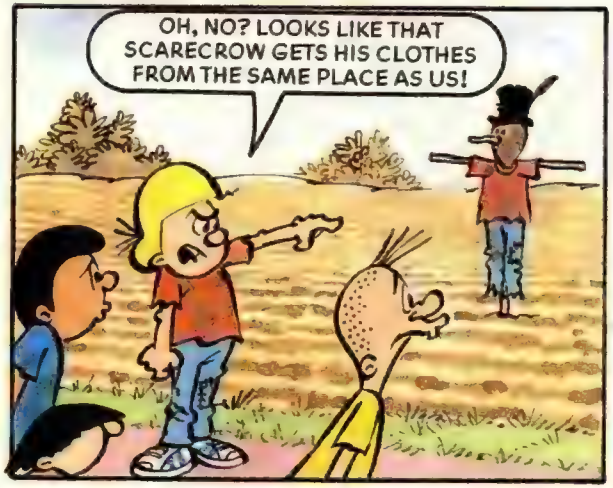

LOOK HOW SMART MUDCHESTER UNITED LOOK WHEN THEY'RE ON CLUB DUTY!

NOT LIKE US — WE'RE A BUNCH OF SCRUFFS!
WE'RE NOT THAT BAD!


And —
GET OUT OF THE POOL!
BUT B.B. SAID . . .


Finally —
SCREAM! HOW AM I GOING TO GET THAT OIL OUT OF YOUR GOOD CLOTHES?
BUT BALL BOY . . .

YOU AND YOUR GREAT IDEAS, BALL BOY!


OH, NO? LOOKS LIKE THAT SCARECROW GETS HIS CLOTHES FROM THE SAME PLACE AS US!

RIGHT, FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL WEAR A COLLAR AND TIE WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR STRIP.

So —
BENJY, WHY AREN'T YOU IN YOUR PYJAMAS?
B.B. SAID WE'VE GOT TO WEAR A COLLAR AND TIE WHEN WE'RE NOT WEARING OUR STRIPS.

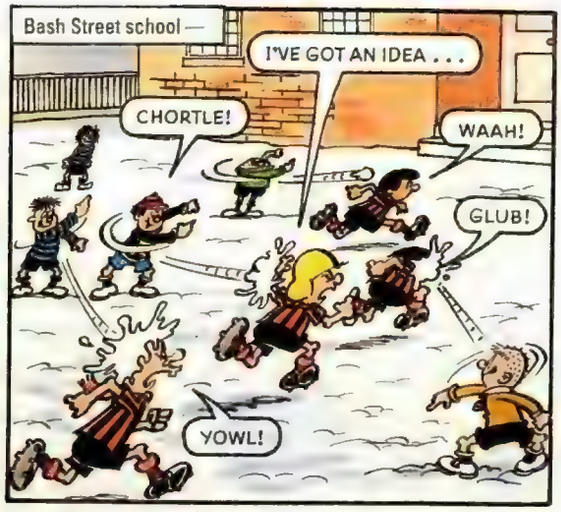
ER —

AT LEAST THE TIES HAVE HELPED IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS —

— AT T-T-TARGET P-PRACTICE! HOWL!

BALL
BOY

ALL OUR FOOTBALLS ARE BURST. NO GAME FOR US UNTIL WE GET OUR NEW FOOTBALLS FROM SANTA.


Bash Street school —
I'VE GOT AN IDEA . . .
CHORTLE!
WAAH!
GLUB!
YOWL!

And —
HERE'S THE CHRISTMAS PUDDING YOU ORDERED, BALL BOY!
THANKS, OLIVE!

DON'T WORRY — WE'RE NOT GOING TO EAT OLIVE'S PUDDING!

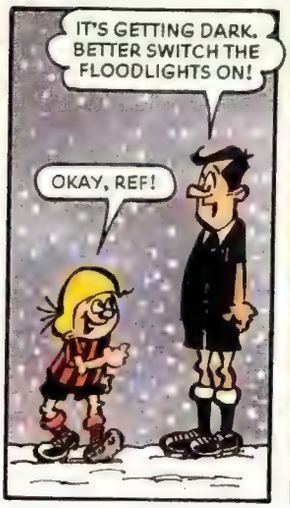
HER PUDDINGS ARE SO TOUGH, THEY MAKE SUPER FOOTBALLS!

YAHOO! I'M PAST THE GOALIE!
YOU CAN'T MISS!

IT'S THE SEASON OF GOODWILL! HAVE THE BALL, KEEPER!
WOW! THAT'S THE BEST PRESENT I'VE EVER HAD!

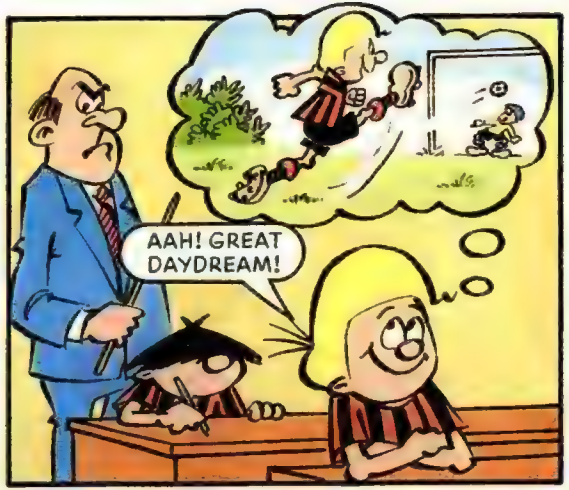
ERK! LOOKS LIKE THE REF'S REACHING INTO HIS POCKET!
OW!

HA! HA! NOT A RED CARD — A CHRISTMAS CARD!
ALL THE BEST, BALL BOY!

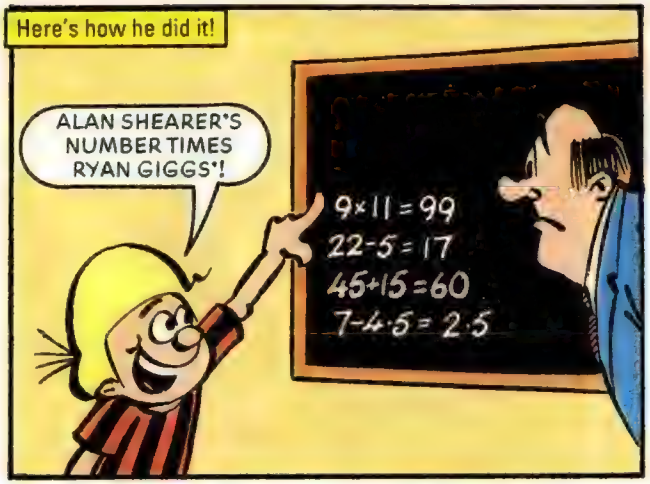

IT'S GETTING DARK. BETTER SWITCH THE FLOODLIGHTS ON!
OKAY, REF!

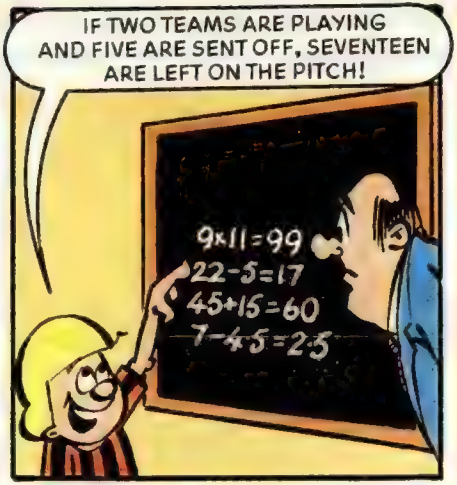
LIKE OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS FLOODLIGHTS, READERS?

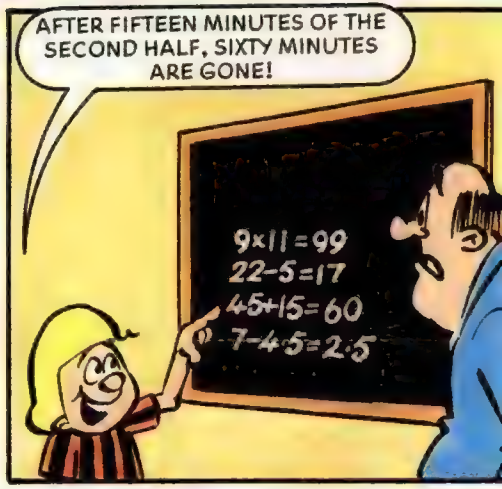
BALL
BOY


AAH! GREAT DAYDREAM!

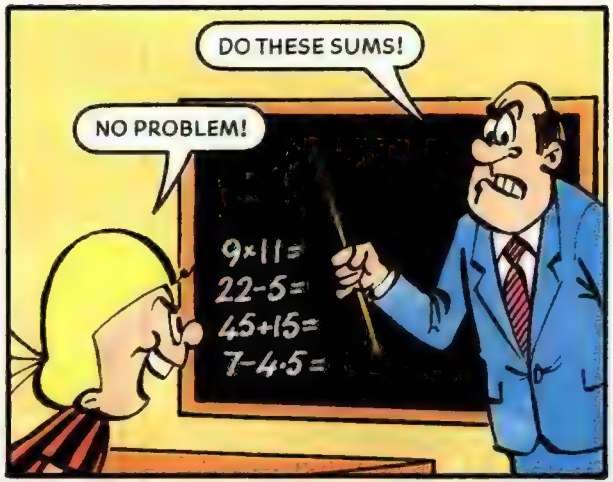
SSSSSS
AW!

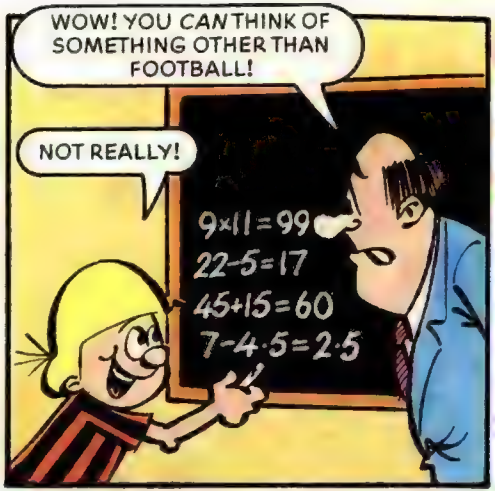

Here's how he did it!
ALAN SHEARER'S NUMBER TIMES RYAN GIGGS'!
9×11=99
22-5=17
45+15=60
7-4·5=2·5

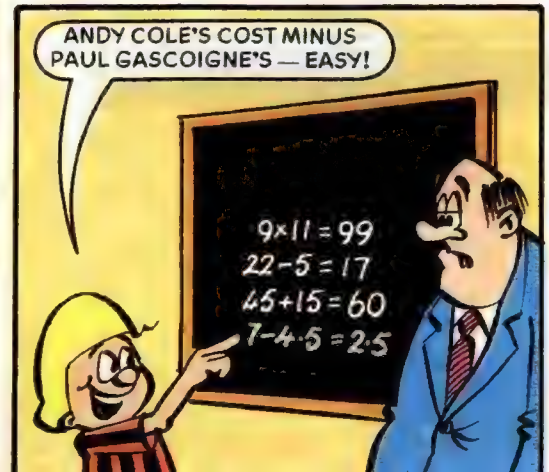

IF TWO TEAMS ARE PLAYING AND FIVE ARE SENT OFF, SEVENTEEN ARE LEFT ON THE PITCH!
9×11=99
22-5=17
45+15=60
7-4·5=2·5


AFTER FIFTEEN MINUTES OF THE SECOND HALF, SIXTY MINUTES ARE GONE!
9×11=99
22-5=17
45+15=60
7-4·5=2·5

STOP DAYDREAMING ABOUT FOOTBALL, BALL BOY!


DO THESE SUMS!
NO PROBLEM!
9×11=
22-5=
45+15=
7-4·5=


WOW! YOU CAN THINK OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN FOOTBALL!
NOT REALLY!
9×11=99
22-5=17
45+15=60
7-4·5=2·5

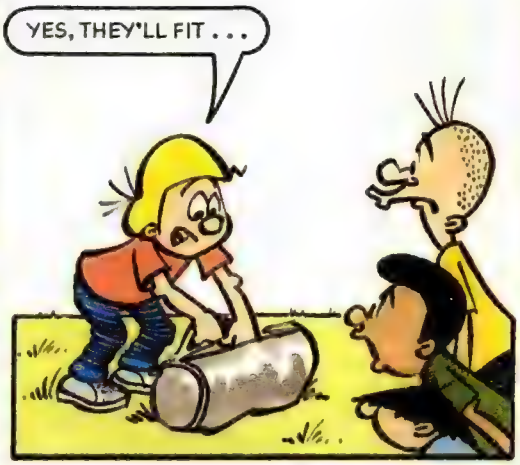

ANDY COLE'S COST MINUS PAUL GASCOIGNE'S — EASY!
9×11=99
22-5=17
45+15=60
7-4·5=2·5

SWOON!

NOW I CAN GET BACK TO MY DAYDREAM!

BALL
BOY

ER — I'M AFRAID OUR STRIPS SHRANK A BIT IN THE WASH!
WILL THEY STILL FIT?


YES, THEY'LL FIT . . .

OO! OUR BACKS!
HEH! LIMBO DANCING IS EASY FOR ME.

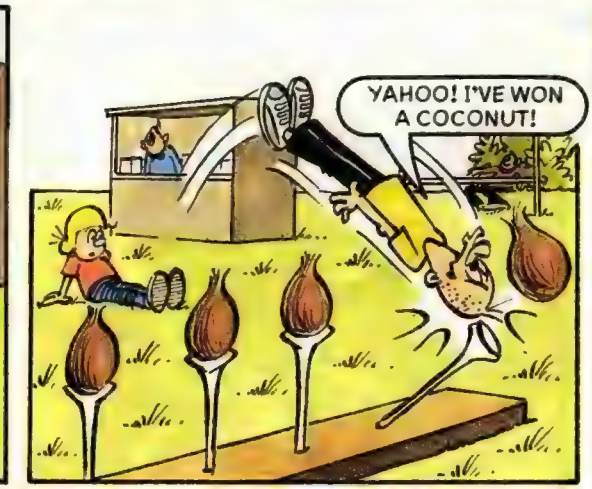
SLIDE TACKLE ME, BALL BOY!
OK, DIMMY!

. . . MY ACTION MAN DOLLS, THAT IS!
OH, NO!

WHY NOT HAVE AN OPEN DAY WITH STALLS TO RAISE MONEY FOR NEW STRIPS?
GOOD IDEA!

So —
WE'RE HAVING A BEAT THE GOALIE STALL WITH A DIFFERENCE . . .

THAT'S FOR LETTING IN SIX GOALS LAST WEEK!


YAHOO! I'VE WON A COCONUT!

Until —
WE'VE MADE LOTS OF MONEY!

NONE OF IT FOR NEW STRIPS, THOUGH. IT'S ALL HAD TO GO ON A MEDICAL KIT!
OO!
GROAN!

BALL BOY

WHO PUT THE LIGHTS OUT?

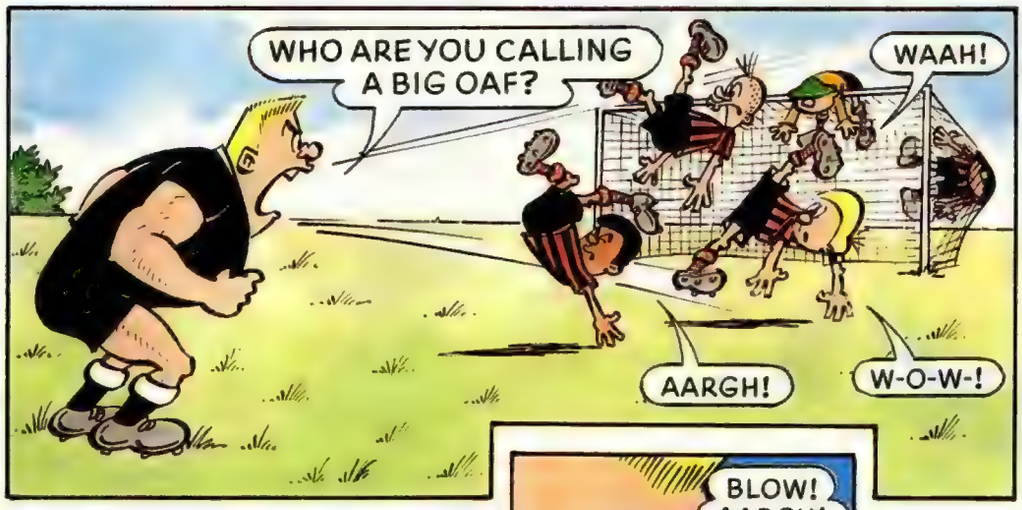
THIS IS MY FIRST EVER GAME AS A REFEREE!
WOW! BIG REF!

HEADS OR TAILS?
ER — HEADS.

HE'S PULVERISED THE COIN! NEVER SEEN THAT HAPPEN BEFORE!
OOPS!

AW! NOW YOU'VE SQUEEZED ALL THE AIR OUT OF THE BALL, YOU BIG OAF!
SSS
SSS

HUUUUUH!


WHO ARE YOU CALLING A BIG OAF?
WAAH!
AARGH!
W-O-W-!

DON'T WORRY, LADS. HE WON'T LAST LONG.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BALL BOY?

HURRY UP AND BLOW FOR KICK-OFF, REF!

BLOW! AARGH!

HA-HA! HE BLEW THE PEA FROM HIS WHISTLE RIGHT UP HIS NOSE. KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
DOH! MY POOR DOSE!

BALL BOY

HEH! TOO EASY!
GROAN! ANOTHER GOAL LOST!

Then —
OH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE THE COACH IS ABOUT TO MAKE A SUBSTITUTION!

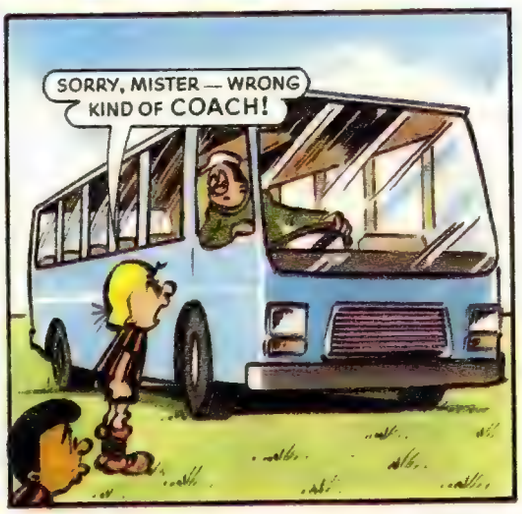
I RESIGN
ER — THINK WE NEED A NEW COACH!

So —
NEW COACH REQUIRED FOR BALL BOY'S TEAM
I'VE COME ABOUT THE JOB!
OH, GOOD!

WE COULD PLAY 4-4-2 OR THE DIAMOND SYSTEM OR WITH AN OVERLAPPING GOALIE . . .

ER — DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
NOT A CLUE. NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE!
NEXT!

Then —
VROOM!
WHO'S THIS?


SORRY, MISTER — WRONG KIND OF COACH!

Next —
YOU NEED A COACH AND I'M THE FINEST DANCE COACH AROUND!
NO! NO! NO! WRONG KIND OF COACH AGAIN!

OH!
WAIT! YOU MIGHT JUST DO AFTER ALL . . .

So —
LIFT THOSE KNEES, TROT DOWN THE WING —
— RAISE YOUR FOOT, THEN LET IT SWING!
JUMP UP AS HIGH AS YOU CAN GET. NOD THAT BALL RIGHT IN THE NET!
KNEW THAT LINE DANCING WOULD DO THE TRICK!

BALL BOY

BAH! HIT THE CROSSBAR!

OUCH! THAT HURT!
CR-CRIKEY! THE CROSSBAR SPOKE!

NO IT DIDN'T! IT WAS OUR GOALIE THROWING HIS VOICE!

I'M THE MOST TALENTED PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE!

Later —
I'M A MAGICIAN NOW.

ABRACADABRA! TA-DAA!
BAH!

CALL THAT A SHOT? YOU REMIND ME OF FOWLER!
ROBBIE FOWLER OF LIVERPOOL?

NO, PAULINE FOWLER FROM "EASTENDERS", I MEAN! HAW-HAW!
HUH! HE FANCIES HIMSELF AS A COMEDIAN TOO!

HUH! I BET YOU CAN'T JUGGLE!

OF COURSE I CAN!

GOOD! NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ME FROM SCORING!

JUST AS I PLANNED!
OH, YES I WILL!

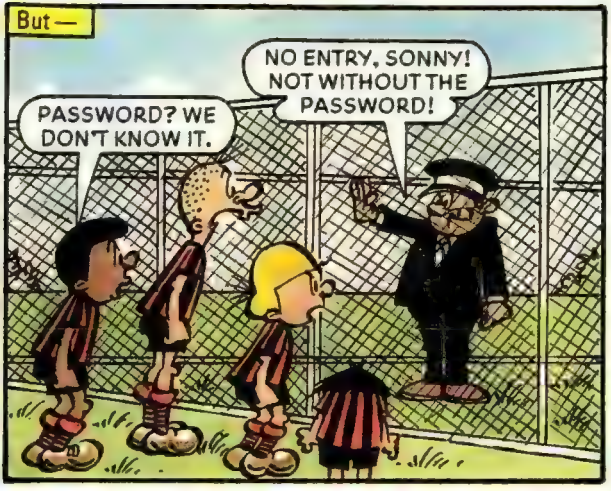
HA-HA!
OOF!

IT TAKES SOME TALENT TO BE THAT STUPID!
GROAN!

BALL BOY

HEADS OR TAILS?
HEADS.

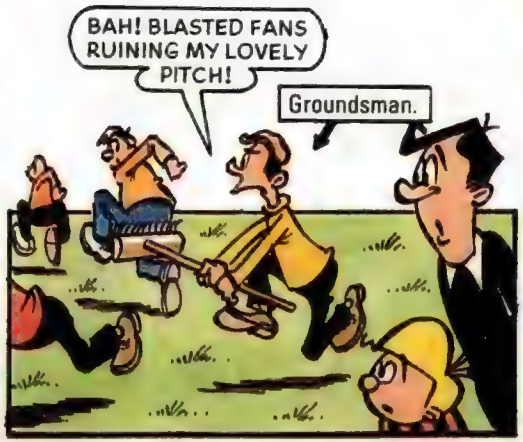
HEADS IT IS.


But —
PASSWORD? WE DON'T KNOW IT.
NO ENTRY, SONNY! NOT WITHOUT THE PASSWORD!

ER — IS IT GOALPOST?
NO! NO! NO!
PENALTY SPOT?
CORNER FLAG?

I COULD DO WITH A CHEESE AND HAM TOASTIE.

WE WON THE TOSS! WE WON THE TOSS!
ER — OUR FANS DON'T GET MUCH TO CELEBRATE!


BAH! BLASTED FANS RUINING MY LOVELY PITCH!
Groundsman.

So —
THIS SECURITY SHOULD STOP THE WRONG PEOPLE GETTING ON TO THE PITCH!

THAT'S IT! YOU'VE SAID THE PASSWORD — CHEESE AND HAM TOASTIE!

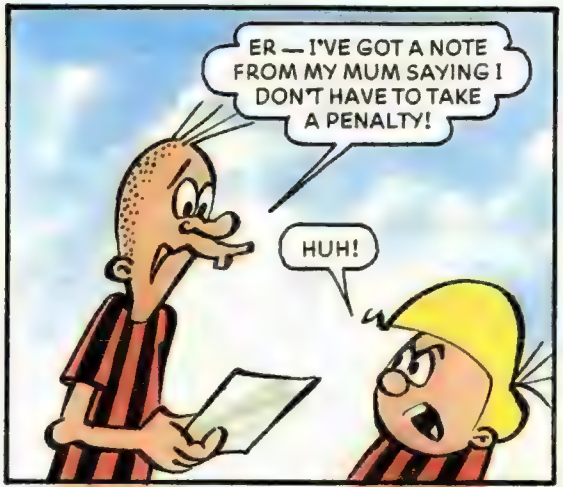
NO WONDER THE GROUNDSMAN DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO RUIN HIS PITCH!

HE'S GOT A CRUCIAL CROQUET FIXTURE WITH WALTER AND THE SOFTIES! HA-HA!
SQUIRM! FOUND OUT!

BALL BOY

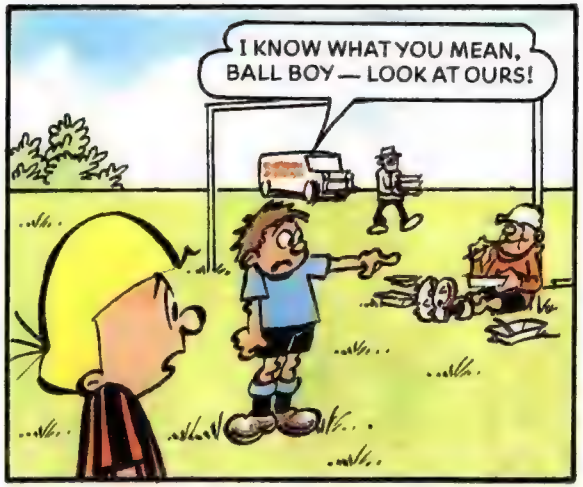
GROAN! WE'VE HARDLY BEEN OUT OF THE CENTRE, CIRCLE THE WHOLE GAME!

OUR GOALIE HASN'T EXACTLY BEEN OVERWORKED!
N N N N


ER — I'VE GOT A NOTE FROM MY MUM SAYING I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE A PENALTY!
HUH!

MY LEG'S TOO SORE!
BAH! TAKING PENALITIES IS NO WAY TO DECIDE A FOOTBALL MATCH.

COME ON! COME ON! OR I'LL ABANDON THE GAME!


I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BALL BOY — LOOK AT OURS!

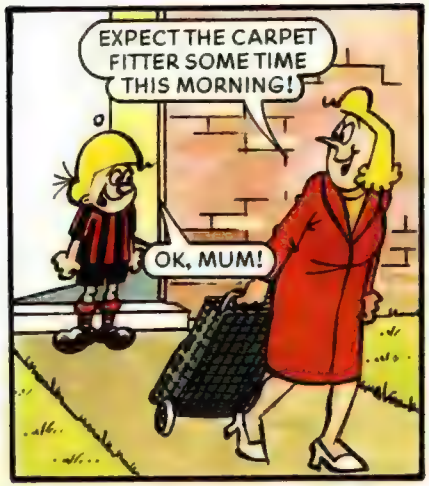
FULL TIME! O-O! TIME FOR THE PENALTY SHOOT OUT!

I H-HATE TAKING P-P-PENALTIES!

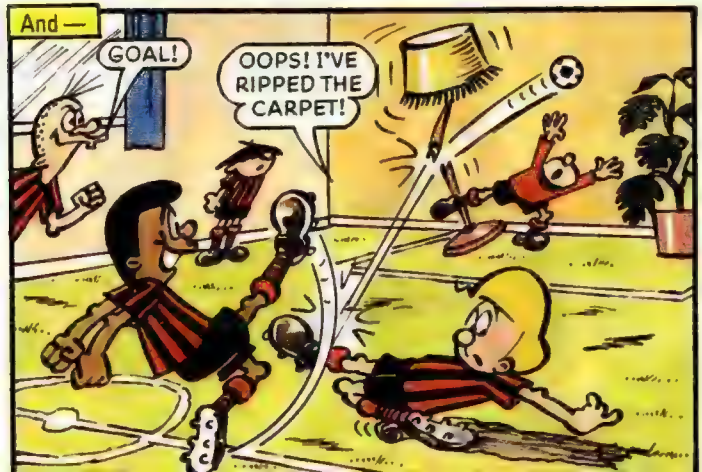
So —
COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE YOURSELF MISS, BALL BOY!
NO, READER!

BALL BOY'S TEAM WINS!
WE RECKONED PIN-THE-TAIL-ON-THE DONKEY WAS A BETTER WAY TO DECIDE THINGS!

BALL BOY


EXPECT THE CARPET FITTER SOME TIME THIS MORNING!
OK, MUM!

Soon —
THE LIVING-ROOM'S THROUGH THERE!


And —
GOAL!
OOPS! I'VE RIPPED THE CARPET!

ERK! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
HERE'S YOUR MUM NOW!

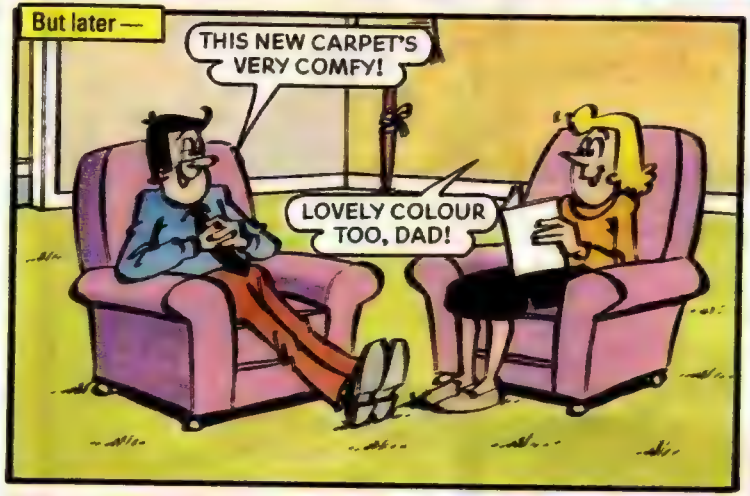
GRR! YOU'VE RUINED MY NEW CARPET!
S-SORRY!

COMING OUT TO PLAY, BALL BOY?
I CAN'T — WE'RE HAVING A CARPET FITTED!

THAT'S IT FINISHED, BALL BOY!
TA!

So —
HEY! COME AND TRY OUR NEW INDOOR PITCH!
EH?

THE CARPET'S JUST LIKE A REAL FOOTBALL PITCH!


But later —
THIS NEW CARPET'S VERY COMFY!
LOVELY COLOUR TOO, DAD!

And —
HUH! MUM CARPETED THE LIVING-ROOM WITH TURF FROM OUR PITCH!

BALL BOY
ER, THE CROWD THOUGHT I PLAYED BADLY TODAY!
SLURP! I'VE PULLED THAT ONE! NOW FOR ANOTHER MUSSEL!
CAULIFLOWER EAR
BRUSSEL SPROUT NOSE
TURNIP HEAD...
PULLED MUSSEL
MFF!
TONGUE TIED
OO! WHAT A PLAYER, MY NEPHEW IS!
TWISTED UNCLE
I DID A MAZY DRIBBLE PAST HIM!
CHEST STRAIN
THERE, THERE! I'LL MAKE IT BETTER!
SORE CALF
BALL BOY HAS AN INJURY BECAUSE I DROPPED HIM — HE'S GOT HURT FEELINGS!
COACH

Injury Time

AWW!

FRIED CHICKEN

BROKEN LEG

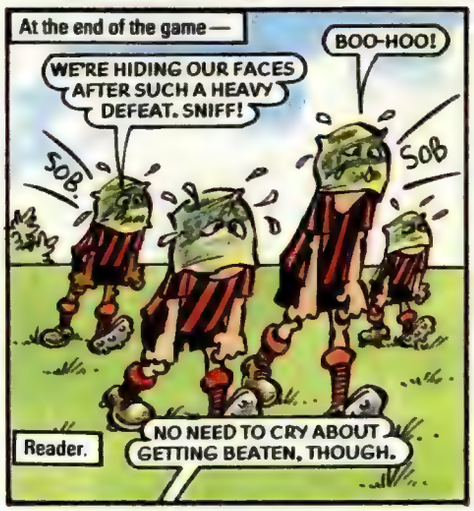
THAT'S THE LAST TIME YOU MOAN ABOUT THIS REFEREE!

GH!

TEAM LIST

WAAAH! BOO-HOO-HOO! HOW COULD HE? I'M THE STAR OF THE TEAM! SOB! SOB!

BALL BOY



BALL BOY

HEY, TITCH, DID YOU KNOW THAT BALL BOY IS LEADING OUT THE TEAM AT MUDCHESTER UNITED'S NEXT GAME?

THIS IS WHERE THE MUDCHESTER MASCOT LIVES!
MUDCHESTER UTD's MASCOT
MASCOT OF MUD-CHESTER
OF COURSE I KNOW! EVERYBODY KNOWS!

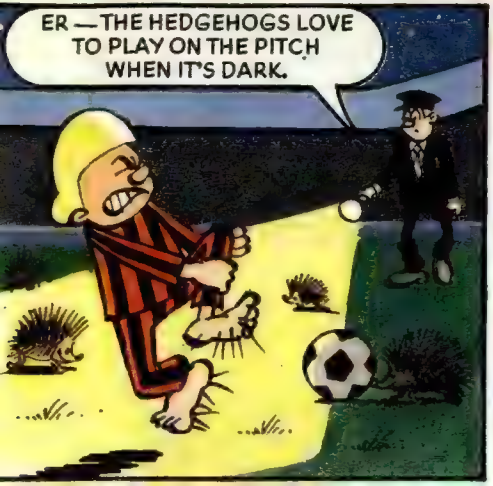
I'LL HAVE A PRACTICE RUN TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING'S OKAY.

WHEW! NO PROBLEM!

OO! OW! OWCH! YEOW!

That night —
OOO! I CAN'T WAIT TO LEAD THE TEAM OUT TOMORROW.

OH, NO! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN WHEN I LEAD THE TEAM OUT.


ER — THE HEDGEHOGS LOVE TO PLAY ON THE PITCH WHEN IT'S DARK.

Next day —
WELL, BB CAN'T LEAD THE TEAM OUT!

. . . SO THEY'RE LETTING HIM READ OUT THE TEAM!
HERE IS TODAY'S LINE-UP . . .

BALL BOY

GUESS WHO WE ARE PLAYING TODAY!
ER — THE SPICE GIRLS.
Dimmy — stupid boy.

NO, IT'S A TEAM OF MIND-READERS!
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT.

So —

OH, NO! I FORGOT TO BRING SAUCE . . .
THAT'S OK. I KNEW YOU'D FORGET, SO I BROUGHT SOME!

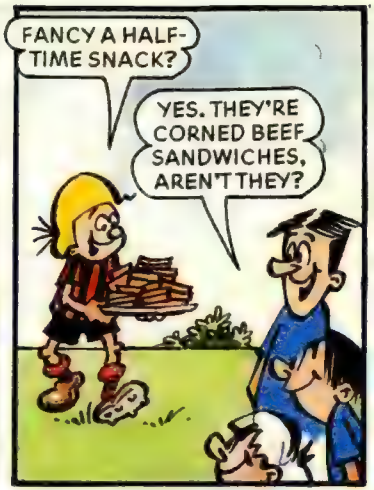
BAH! THEY'RE GUESSING OUR EVERY MOVE.

Later —
I KNEW HE'D SCORE IF I DIDN'T BRING HIM DOWN!

I BET YOUR TACTICS WILL BE TO PLAY THREE IN ATTACK.
WOW! YOU'RE RIGHT!

PENALTY!

CHORTLE! I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO DIVE THAT WAY.


FANCY A HALF-TIME SNACK?
YES. THEY'RE CORNED BEEF SANDWICHES, AREN'T THEY?

HA! HA! HE DIDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR MY RED CARD — HE READ MY MIND!

GROAN! BUT THEIR GOALIE WILL KNOW WHICH WAY WE'RE GOING TO HIT THIS PENALTY.
NOT TO WORRY.

YAHOO! DIMMY'S SCORED!
NOT EVEN A MIND READER COULD PREDICT WHAT DAFT DIMMY WAS THINKING!

BALL
BOY

ER — WHERE'S THE MATCH BALL?
ERK! I FORGOT TO BRING IT!

NOT TO WORRY — WE CAN PRETEND!
EH?

WAAAAY!

But —
YOU MISSED — I SAVED YOUR SHOT!

NO, YOU DIDN'T! I HIT IT IN THE TOP CORNER!
YES, I DID! LOOK, I'VE GOT IT HERE!

WATCH!

SEE!

WHAT A GOAL!

OOPS! MIND YOUR HEAD!
EH?

W-WAAH!

GOAL! YOU DROPPED THE BALL!
BAH! TRICKED!
WHAT AN IMAGINATION!

BALL BOY

POOR DIMMY! THEIR WINGER TIED HIM IN KNOTS!
GROAN!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BUY ANOTHER PLAYER!

And —
WOW!

AAH! THAT'S BETTER! LET'S GO, GUYS!
HE LOOKS BRILLIANT!

But —
MY BALL!

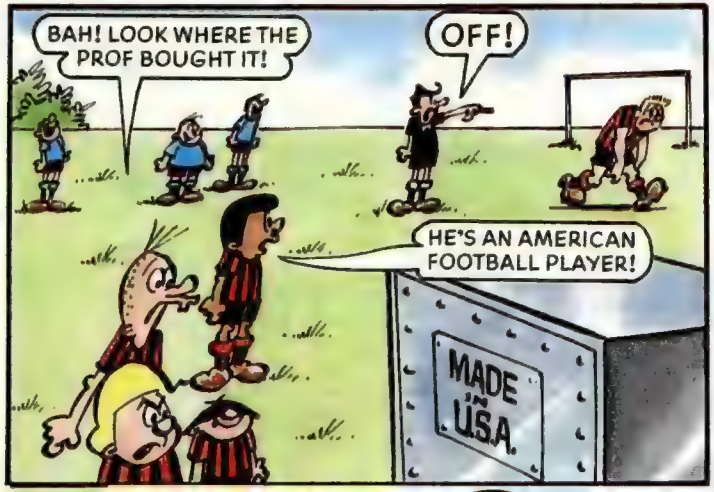
EH? BUT THE MATCH FINISHES IN TEN MINUTES!

LOOK! IT'S AN INVENTION PROFESSOR NUTJOB BOUGHT ON HOLIDAY!
INSTANT PLAYERS

EVERYBODY PUT YOUR MONEY IN!
INSTANT PLAYERS

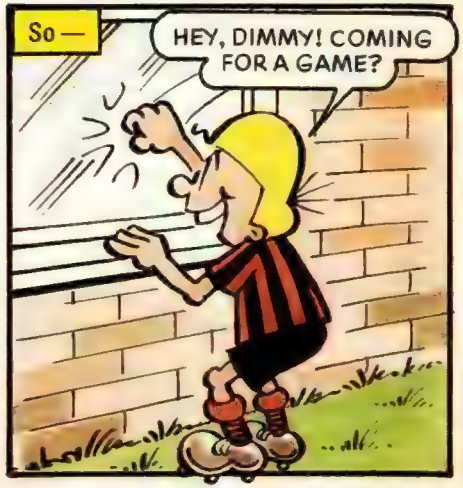
LET'S GO!
INSTANT PLAYERS

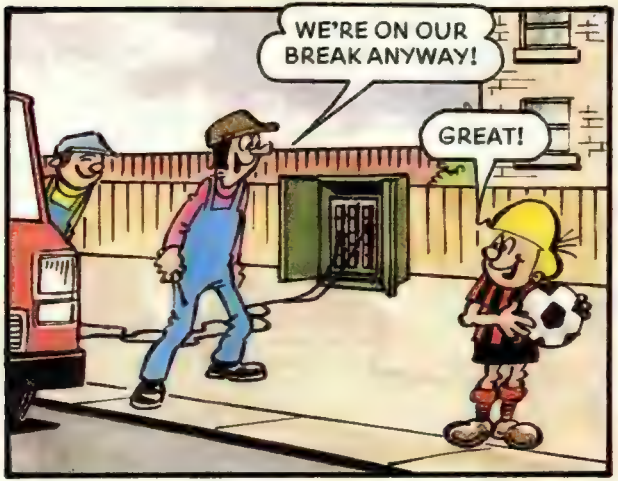
TOUCHDOWN! WOO-HOO!

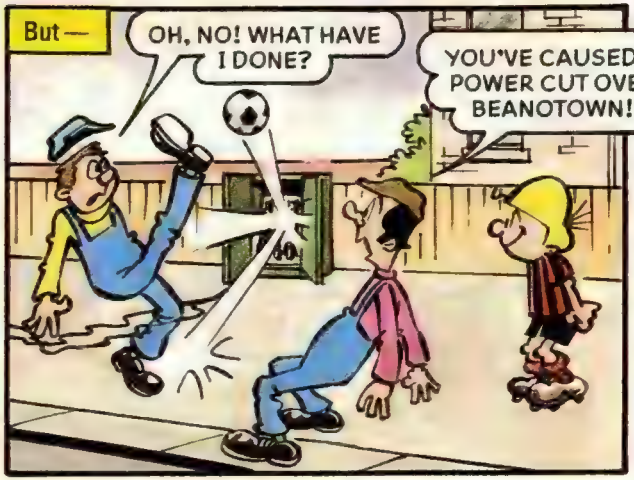

BAH! LOOK WHERE THE PROF BOUGHT IT!
OFF!
HE'S AN AMERICAN FOOTBALL PLAYER!
MADE IN U.S.A.

BALL BOY

FANCY A KICK — ABOUT, BENJY?
SORRY, BUT MY DAD BOUGHT ME A SEASON TICKET TO SEE UNITED!

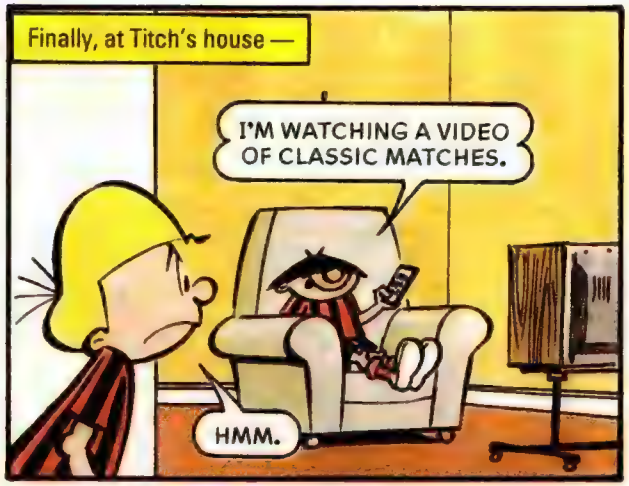

So —
HEY, DIMMY! COMING FOR A GAME?


WE'RE ON OUR BREAK ANYWAY!
GREAT!


But —
OH, NO! WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU'VE CAUSED A POWER CUT OVER BEANOTOWN!

AW!
AW!

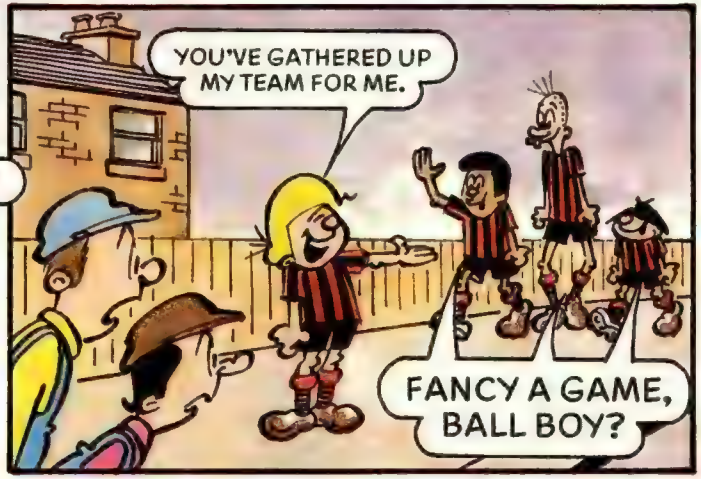
NO, I'VE GOT A GREAT NEW SOCCER COMPUTER GAME!
OH!


Finally, at Titch's house —
I'M WATCHING A VIDEO OF CLASSIC MATCHES.
HMM.

SIGH! EVERYONE'S TOO BUSY TO PLAY!
WE'LL PLAY WITH YOU!

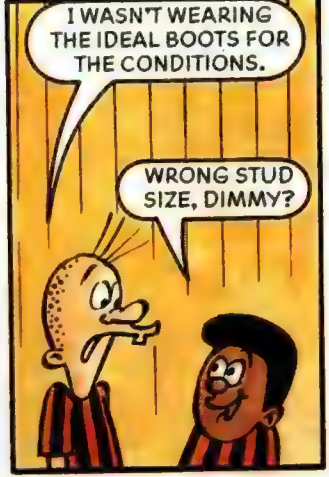
AW!

WE'D BETTER FIX IT. SORRY, BALL BOY.
YES! GREAT SHOT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WHY?


YOU'VE GATHERED UP MY TEAM FOR ME.
FANCY A GAME, BALL BOY?

BALL
BOY

BAH! BEATEN AGAIN! JUST WAIT TILL I HEAR ALL THE EXCUSES!

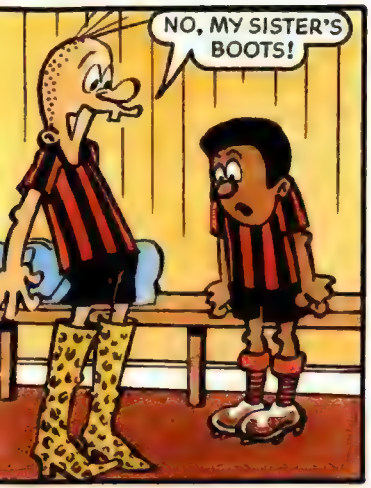

I WASN'T WEARING THE IDEAL BOOTS FOR THE CONDITIONS.
WRONG STUD SIZE, DIMMY?

HA-HA!

MY EXCUSE IS THAT I'M WEARING THE NUMBER 13 SHIRT. HOW UNLUCKY CAN YOU GET?
AT LEAST YOU DID SCORE, TITCH!
13

AN OWN GOAL! HOW UNLUCKY!

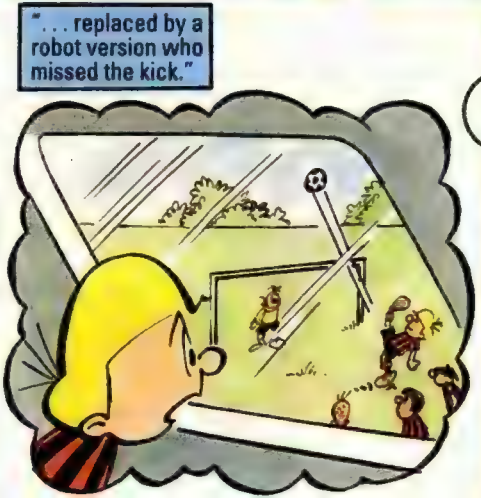
HEY! YOU MISSED A PENALTY YOURSELF. WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?
I DIDN'T MISS IT — I WAS ABDUCTED BY ALIENS . . .


NO, MY SISTER'S BOOTS!

THE REF CHALKED OFF A PERFECTLY GOOD GOAL I SCORED!

YOU WERE CLIMBING, BENJY!
ERM . . .

. . . when you weren't looking and . . ."
THAT WAS NEVER A PENALTY!
OH, YES IT WAS!


". . . replaced by a robot version who missed the kick."

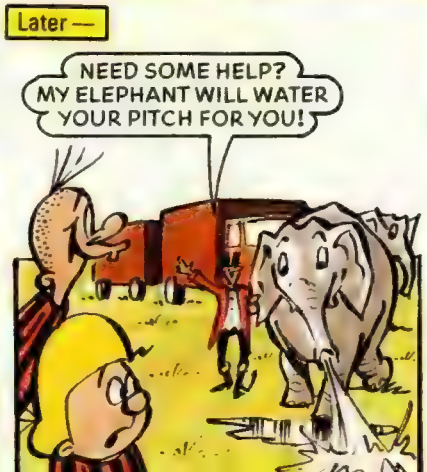
BET YOU WISHED YOU'D THOUGHT OF THAT EXCUSE AT EURO '96 LAST YEAR, EH, GARETH SOUTHGATE!

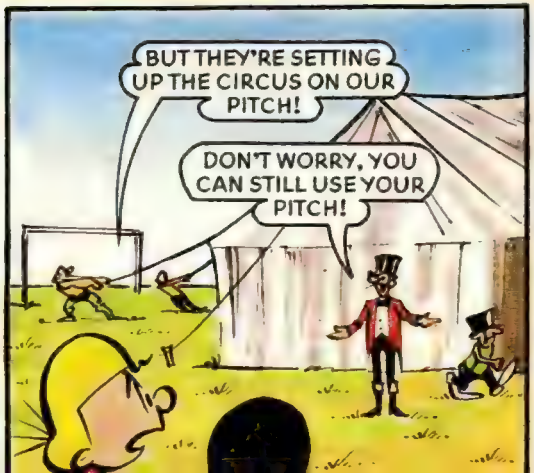
BALL
BOY

HMM! THE PITCH IS AS HARD AS A ROCK!

IF WE WATER THE PITCH, IT MIGHT HELP TO SOFTEN IT!

GLUB! WE SHOULD HAVE HAD OUR WATER FIGHT ON THE PITCH!

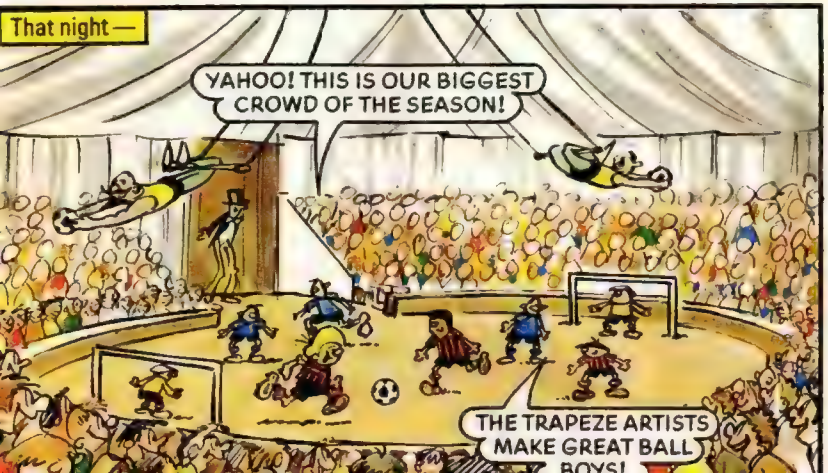

Later —
NEED SOME HELP? MY ELEPHANT WILL WATER YOUR PITCH FOR YOU!


BUT THEY'RE SETTING UP THE CIRCUS ON OUR PITCH!
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN STILL USE YOUR PITCH!

But —
WHERE HAS ALL THE WATER GONE?
THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR BUCKET, DEAR BALL BOY, DEAR BALL BOY!

LET'S WATER THE PITCH WITH OUR WATER PISTOLS!

Then —
OO-ER! IT'S THE BASH ST KIDS!

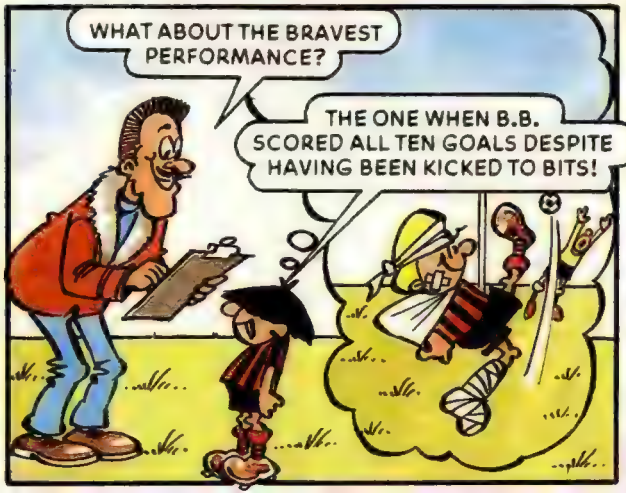

That night —
YAHOO! THIS IS OUR BIGGEST CROWD OF THE SEASON!
THE TRAPEZE ARTISTS MAKE GREAT BALL BOYS!

I'M GLAD WE PLAYED INDOORS TONIGHT — THE PITCH WOULD'VE BEEN FLOODED IN THIS STORMY WEATHER!

BALL
BOY

BETTER GET IN SOME SHOOTING PRACTICE BEFORE TODAY'S GAME!

Then —
EXCUSE ME!
HEY!


WHAT ABOUT THE BRAVEST PERFORMANCE?
THE ONE WHEN B.B. SCORED ALL TEN GOALS DESPITE HAVING BEEN KICKED TO BITS!

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST DEFEAT?
THE NEXT MATCH WHEN B.B. WASN'T PLAYING — WE MISSED HIM!

ERM, BY THE WAY, I AM BALL BOY!

COULD I ASK YOUR TEAM A FEW QUESTIONS?
HMPH! OKAY!

WHO'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYER?
BALL BOY!

BEST GOAL YOU'VE EVER SEEN?
THE ONE BALL BOY SCORED FOR US TO WIN THE CUP!

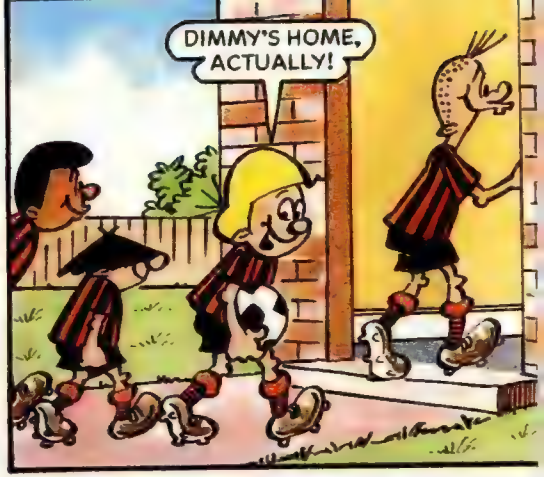
IN THAT CASE YOU DESERVE THIS TROPHY FOR BEING SO BRILLIANT!

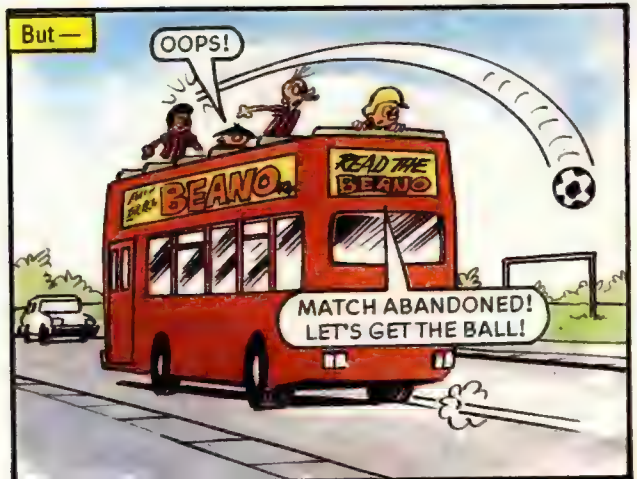
AHEM — OOPS!
YEOW!

Then —
THAT'S THEIR BEST PLAYER OUT OF ACTION, LADS — NOW IT'LL BE EASY!
COACH
HUH! SNEAK!

BALL
BOY

WE'RE PLAYING AT HOME TODAY.


DIMMY'S HOME, ACTUALLY!


But —
OOPS!
BEANO
READ THE BEANO
MATCH ABANDONED! LET'S GET THE BALL!

And —
LOOK! WE'VE ARRIVED AT OUR OWN GROUND.
WHY DON'T WE JUST PLAY HERE?

BECAUSE THE PITCH IS BEING SEEDED.
GRASS SEED ON PITCH KEEP OFF

But —

NO WAY — OFF!

AW!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY AWAY AFTER ALL!

BUS STOP

LET'S PLAY OUR GAME UPSTAIRS!

Then —

YOU CAN PLAY AT BUNKERTON CASTLE IF YOU LIKE. THE GRASS IS LOVELY, LUSH AND THICK!

GREAT! TAKE US THERE, LORD SNOOTY!

But —

IT'S NOT A FOOTBALL PITCH LORD SNOOTY HAS — IT'S A S-SAFARI P-PARK!

GROWL!

SSS!

ROAR!

GRUNT!

BALL
BOY

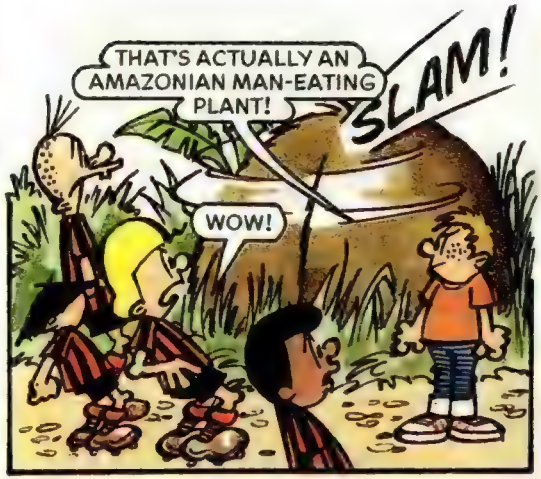
BEANOTOWN BOTANICAL GARDENS
WE'RE PLAYING HERE TODAY!

THAT MUST BE THE DRESSING-ROOM!
DON'T GO IN THERE, BALL BOY!

But —
BAH! OUR STRIPS CLASH WITH EACH OTHER!
WE CAN FIX THAT!

THIS AFRICAN INK-SQUIRTING PLANT WILL SOON CHANGE THE COLOUR OF YOUR SHIRTS!

CHORTLE! LOOK — RUBBER PLANTS INSTEAD OF CORNER FLAGS!


THAT'S ACTUALLY AN AMAZONIAN MAN-EATING PLANT!
SLAM!
WOW!

YOU CAN GO IN HERE INSTEAD.

PHEW! IT'S HOT IN HERE!

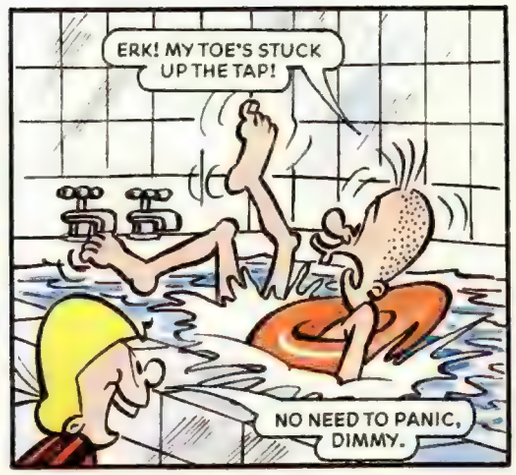
NNGH! NOW THAT MUST BE A GOAL!

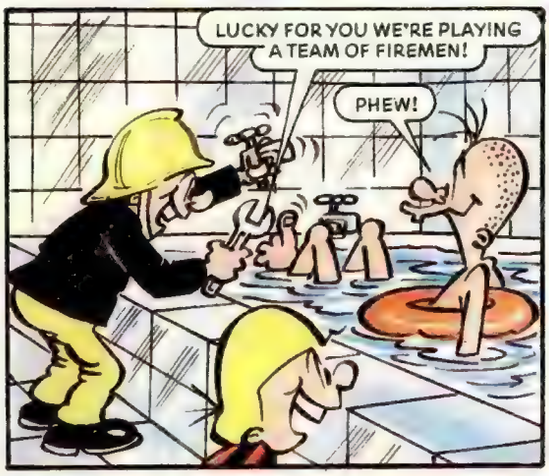
THAT'S A PERUVIAN BIRD-CATCHING PLANT. WE TRAINED IT TO CATCH FOOTBALLS INSTEAD!
BAH!

And —
THE MATCH IS OVER — THE GOALIE ATE THE BALL!
BURP

BALL BOY

DAFT DIMMY ALWAYS TAKES A BATH BEFORE A MATCH!

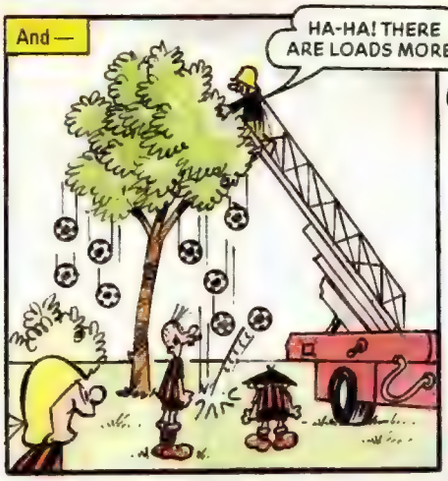

ERK! MY TOE'S STUCK UP THE TAP!
NO NEED TO PANIC, DIMMY.

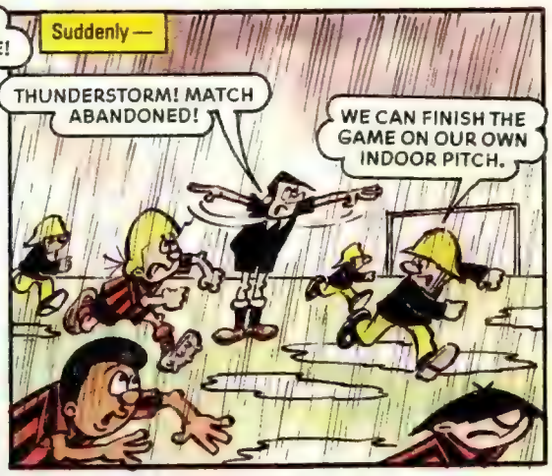

LUCKY FOR YOU WE'RE PLAYING A TEAM OF FIREMEN!
PHEW!

Later —
WOW! THAT'S TOO HOT A SHOT FOR ANY KEEPER TO SAVE!

CHORTLE!
BAH!

Later —
GRR! DIMMY!
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET IT BACK!


And —
HA-HA! THERE ARE LOADS MORE!


Suddenly —
THUNDERSTORM! MATCH ABANDONED!
WE CAN FINISH THE GAME ON OUR OWN INDOOR PITCH.

NEVER KNOWN A PITCH TO BE UPSTAIRS BEFORE!

HA! HA! IT'S NOT— IT'S JUST A MORE FUN WAY TO ARRIVE ON THE PITCH!

BALL BOY

YAWN! PEOPLE SAY I'M OBSESSED WITH FOOTBALL —

— WHATEVER DO THEY MEAN? CHORTLE!
CLICKETY-CLICK!

TEE-HEE!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
Reader.

THE TURF IS TICKLISH! GIGGLE!

NIGHT-NIGHT, READERS!
CLICK

ZZZZ!

Then —
GREAT! BALL BOY'S SLEEPING.

USE THIS CHOCOLATE SWEET AS THE BALL!
ZZZZ!

But —
OO-ER! THERE GOES THE BALL!

Next morning —
MORNING, BALL BOY! SWEET DREAMS?

I CERTAINLY DID. LOOK!
GASP!

BALL BOY

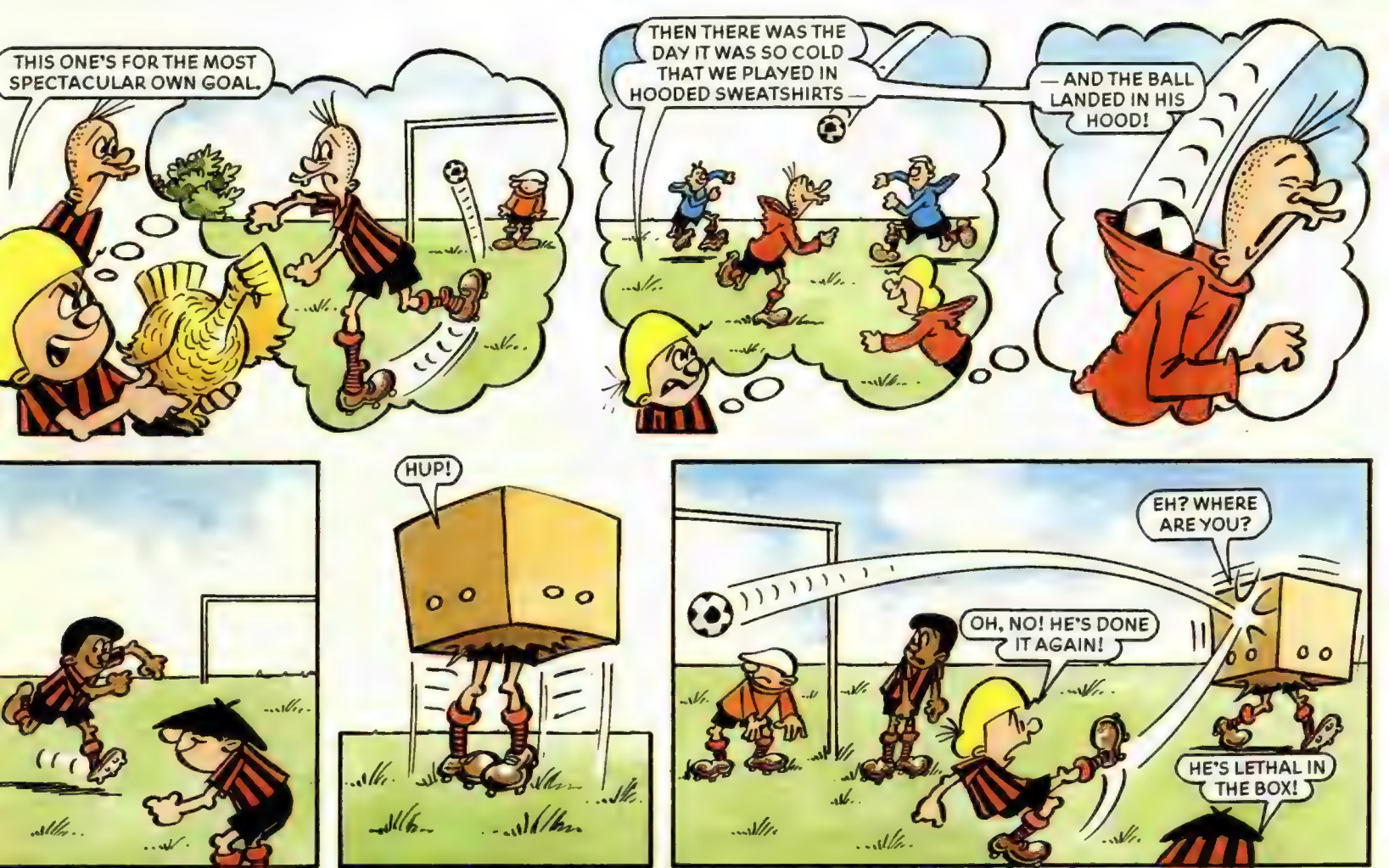
DIMMY'S THE ONLY ONE OF OUR TEAM WHO EVER WINS A TROPHY . . .

. . . MIND YOU, THEY'RE ALL FOR THE OWN GOALS HE'S SCORED!
Turkey of the Year Trophy

HE GOT AN AWARD FOR THE DAFTEST OWN GOAL FOR WALKING BETWEEN THE POSTS.
WHERE'S THE BALL?
OH, NO!

So—
WE'RE MAKING SURE YOU DON'T SCORE AN OWN GOAL TODAY!
UMPH!

And—
HOI! I'M NOT STAYING IN HERE!


THIS ONE'S FOR THE MOST SPECTACULAR OWN GOAL.
THEN THERE WAS THE DAY IT WAS SO COLD THAT WE PLAYED IN HOODED SWEATSHIRTS —
— AND THE BALL LANDED IN HIS HOOD!
HUP!
EH? WHERE ARE YOU?
OH, NO! HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!
HE'S LETHAL IN THE BOX!

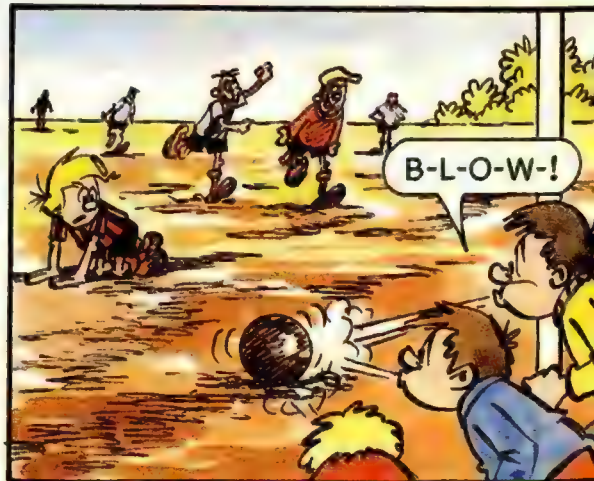
BALL BOY

PHEW! THE PITCH IS JUST ABOUT UNPLAYABLE TODAY. REALLY TIRING PLAYING IN THIS MUD!
BB'S TEAM.. 0
THE OTHER LOT..1

PUFF! NEARLY FULL TIME. CAN'T LOSE! CAN'T LOSE!

GRUNT! I'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH ENERGY TO KICK THE BALL OVER THE LINE!

NO! BALL BOY'S GOING TO SCORE AGAINST OUR TEAM!


B-L-O-W-!

ONE LAST BIG EFFORT!
MY BALL!
MY BALL!
GROOOGH!
GASP! I'VE GOT THE BALL!
IT'S STOPPED ON THE LINE!
BOO-HOO-HOO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT — WE'RE GOING TO LOSE!
MATCH ABANDONED — B.B.'S TEARS HAVE FLOODED THE PITCH!
But —
YE-E-ES!

BALL
BOY

Full time —
LET'S GO!

A few seconds later —
'BYE!

BUBBLE! WE CAN'T GET INTO THE DRESSING-ROOM!
CALM DOWN! I'VE GOT THE KEY, YOU BUNCH OF BABIES!

But —
QUICK! LET'S GO WHILE B.B.'S IN THE SHOWER!

GRR! I WISH THAT LOT WOULD GROW UP!

BAH! THEY'VE LEFT ME WITH THEIR DIRTY KITS TO WASH!

So —
PUFF! HARD WORK, THIS!
SUDSO

Next game —
I'LL JUST TAKE MY TIME.
FULL TIME!

I'LL FIX THEM!
SUDSO

And —
WHERE ARE OUR SHORTS?
I DIDN'T WASH THEM.

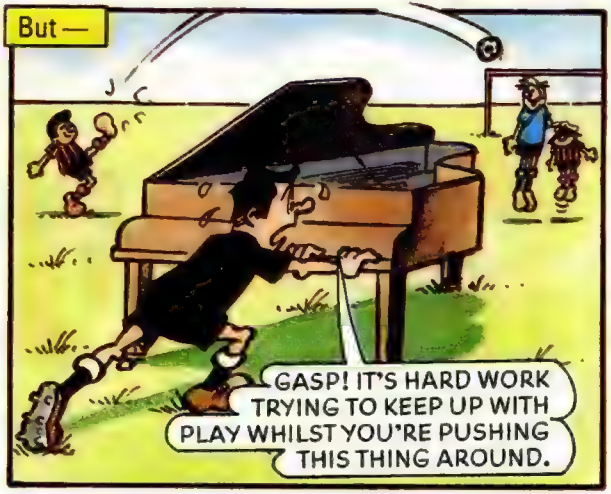
WELL, YOU HAVE BEEN ACTING LIKE A BUNCH OF BABIES RECENTLY!
THE SHAME OF IT!

BALL BOY

PHEEP!
FREE KICK!
GLAKK!
WHAT? I HARDLY TOUCHED HIM!

Then —

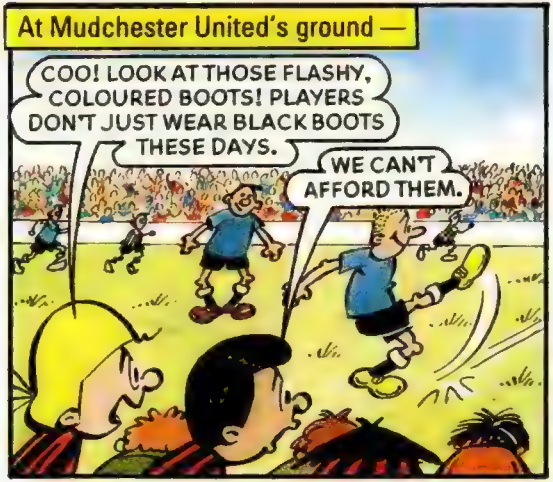
B.B. has another idea —
USE MY GRANDAD'S GRAND PIANO.
I'LL PLAY A TUNE IF I WANT PLAY TO STOP.


But —
GASP! IT'S HARD WORK TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH PLAY WHILST YOU'RE PUSHING THIS THING AROUND.

Then —
KNEES UP, MOTI
BALL BOY'S BEE
EE-AYE-ADDIO,
WE'RE ALL FANS
OH!

ERK! THE REF'S WHISTLE HAS ATTRACTED THOSE DOGS!
ER BROWN, CHOPPED DOWN!
OF THE BEANO!
USE THIS BELL INSTEAD, REF.
GOOD IDEA!
Then —
GREAT FUN! THIS IS THE BEST KNEES-UP WE'VE HAD FOR AGES!
OL' TIME RAG!
WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE REF'S INSTRUMENT AGAIN!
Soon —
KLANG-A-LANG!
OYEZ! OYEZ! HAND BALL! FREE KICK!
The final instrument and the final "whistle" for the end of the game —
NOW I'M PLAYING A SAD TUNE ON MY VIOLIN!
WAILING SCRAPE!
WAAH! BECAUSE WE LOST AGAIN!

BALL
BOY

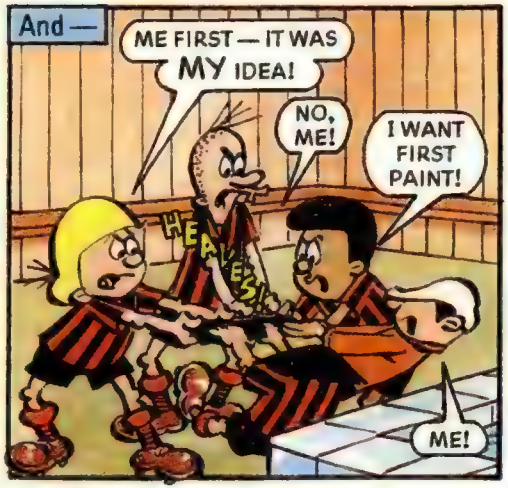

At Mudchester United's ground —
COO! LOOK AT THOSE FLASHY, COLOURED BOOTS! PLAYERS DON'T JUST WEAR BLACK BOOTS THESE DAYS.
WE CAN'T AFFORD THEM.

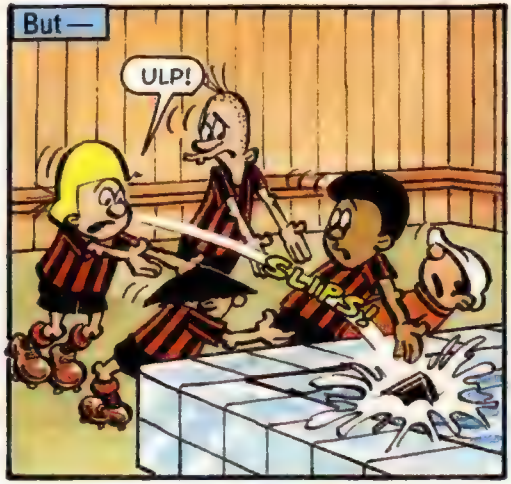
Back in B.B's team's dressingroom —
WE COULD PAINT OUR BOOTS OUR FAVOURITE COLOURS INSTEAD.
YEAH!
GRE
IDE
JUNIOR PAINTING BOX

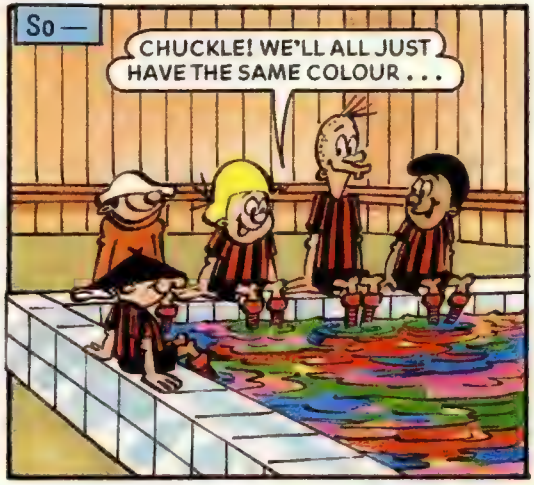
. . . HEE! HEE! OR RATHER MULTI-COLOURS!
COOL!
SPARKLE!

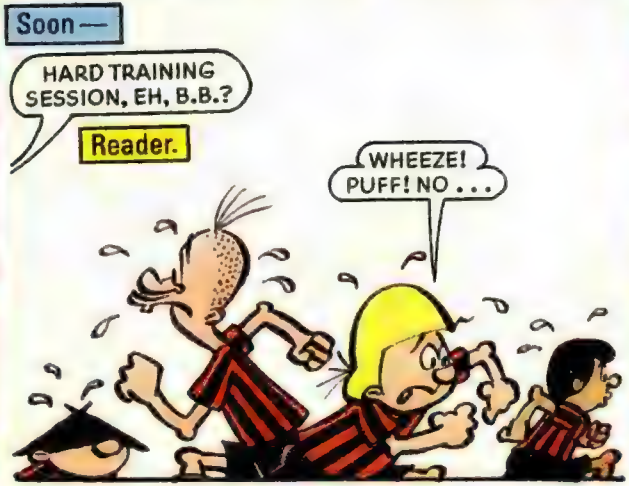
Next match —
NO WAY! YOU CAN'T WEAR THOSE BOOTS! TOO BRIGHT! MATCH ABANDONED!
SORRY, REF!
DAZZLING!

Then —
YOU CAN DIP YOUR BOOTS IN THAT TROUGH, BALL BOY.
BACK TO NORMAL, EH? THANKS!


And —
ME FIRST — IT WAS MY IDEA!
NO, ME!
I WANT FIRST PAINT!
HEALES
ME!


But —
ULP!
SLIPS!


So —
CHUCKLE! WE'LL ALL JUST HAVE THE SAME COLOUR . . .


Soon —
HARD TRAINING SESSION, EH, B.B.?
Reader.
WHEEZE! PUFF! NO . . .

. . . THE GROUNDSMAN TRICKED US INTO MARKING THE PITCH FOR HIM! GASP!
A FINE JOB, LADS!
WHIMPER! I CAN'T MOVE FROM THE CENTRE SPOT TILL MY BOOTS DRY!

BALL BOY

WE'RE HAVING A PRACTICE MATCH FOR TOMORROW'S BIG CUP FINAL.

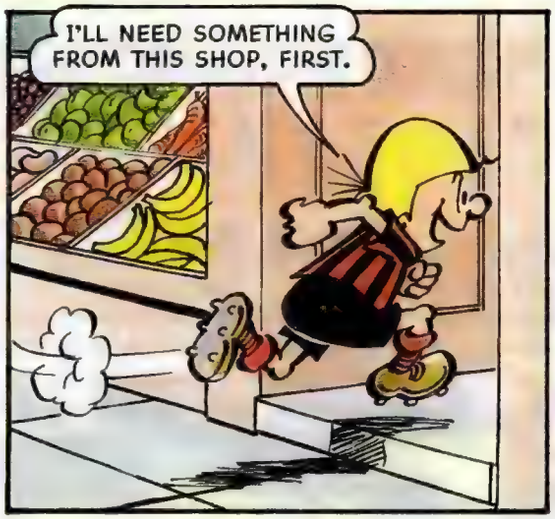
A PEACH OF A CROSS! BENJY CAN'T MISS!

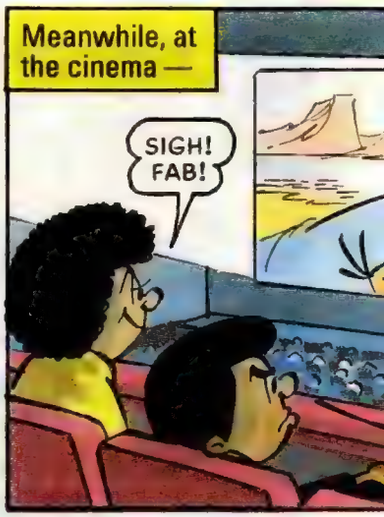
YOU'D BETTER NOT DO THAT IN TOMORROW'S CUP FINAL!
ER, WELL, ACTUALLY . . .

. . . I CAN'T PLAY. NAOMI WANTS ME TO TAKE HER TO THE PICTURES.
WHAT? OUR BEST PLAYER (WELL, SECOND BEST) — UNAVAILABLE? WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!

Next day, in the Cup Final.
TO YOU, BENJY!

WHERE'S HE GOING?
MUST BE QUICK!


I'LL NEED SOMETHING FROM THIS SHOP, FIRST.


Meanwhile, at the cinema —
SIGH! FAB!

And —

The final whistle —
WE WIN!
BENJY PLAYED A BLINDER!

But —
WHAT A CLOT! HE HAS!
I COULDN'T MESS MY HAIR WITH NAOMI WATCHING.
COOEE, GORGEOUS!
OH, CRINGE! BENJY'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND!
OOPS! I FORGOT — BENJY'S NOT PLAYING!
MY BALL!
And —
GROAN! WE'VE GOT TO TAKE DRASTIC ACTION!
SLOPPY SLUSH! WISH I'D PLAYED IN THE MATCH!
Then —
PSST! BENJY . . . !
COO! BALL BOY.
SWOON!
HURRY! I RECKON WE MUST BE 3-0 DOWN, BY NOW!
HEY, B.B., WON'T NAOMI BE FURIOUS?
SHE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S GONE.
ZZZZ
POTATOES
. . . SHE'S BEEN SITTING NEXT TO A SACK OF SPUDS FOR THE PAST HOUR!
ISN'T THIS JUST THE MOST ROMANTIC FILM, EH, BENJY, MY LOVE?

BALL BOY

YIPPEE! I'VE BEEN PICKED TO BE THE BALL BOY AT MUDCHESTER UNITED'S HOME GAME TODAY!
PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS ONLY

Halfway into the first half —
HMPH! BIT OF A DULL GAME — NOT A LOT GOING ON.

Then —
OOPS! DUFFED IT!
OHO! SOMETHING TO DO, AT LAST!

HEY-HOI-HUP! THERE Y'GO, MATE.
NEAT. TA.

Soon —
OOPS! DISPOSSESSED!
I'LL GET IT!

NICE SKILL! TA!
EASY!

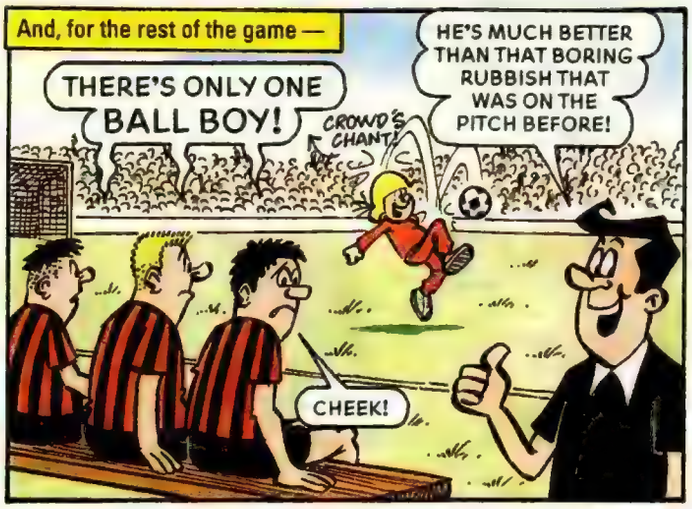
Soon, again —
TRAP!

And —
WATCH THIS!
JAZZY JUGGLE!

And —
AHEM! ANY TIME YOU LIKE!

Then —
EE-NUFF!
SNATCH!
WOOPS!

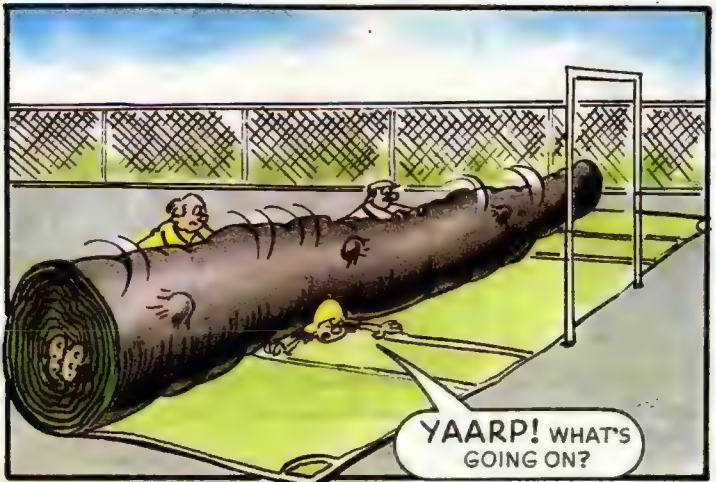
ON!
RED CARD? ON? OH — OKAY!


And, for the rest of the game —
THERE'S ONLY ONE BALL BOY!
CROWD'S CHANT!
HE'S MUCH BETTER THAN THAT BORING RUBBISH THAT WAS ON THE PITCH BEFORE!
CHEEK!

BALL
BOY

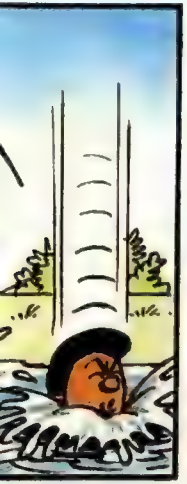
THE RAIN'S FINALLY GONE OFF.
RIGHT! ON WITH THE GAME!

But —
YABLOOSH!


YAARP! WHAT'S GOING ON?

SORRY, LADS, BUT THE PITCH IS DUE AT THE DRY CLEANERS!
BAH! WHERE CAN WE PLAY NOW?

I KNOW WHERE THERE'S AN INDOOR PITCH, WE CAN USE!
BRILL! LEAD US TO IT!



PHEEP! PITCH FLOODED! MATCH ABANDONED!
HEY, HANG ON!
SPLUTTER!

TO THE ALL-WEATHER PITCH. WE CAN STILL PLAY THERE.

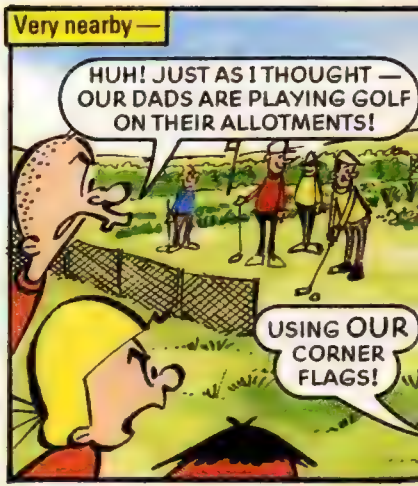
And —
GREAT!

Soon enough, indoors —
NOT QUITE WHAT WE EXPECTED, DIMMY . . .

. . . TABLE FOOTY IS NOT WHAT WE HAD IN MIND!
UM. WELL . . . IT IS AN INDOOR PITCH!

BALL BOY

HEY! OUR CORNER FLAGS HAVE VANISHED!
SOMEBODY'S PINCHED 'EM!


Very nearby —
HUH! JUST AS I THOUGHT — OUR DADS ARE PLAYING GOLF ON THEIR ALLOTMENTS!
USING OUR CORNER FLAGS!

PONG!
PONG!
NO WONDER OUR GOALIE KEEPS COMPLAINING THAT THE GOAL SMELLS OF FISH!

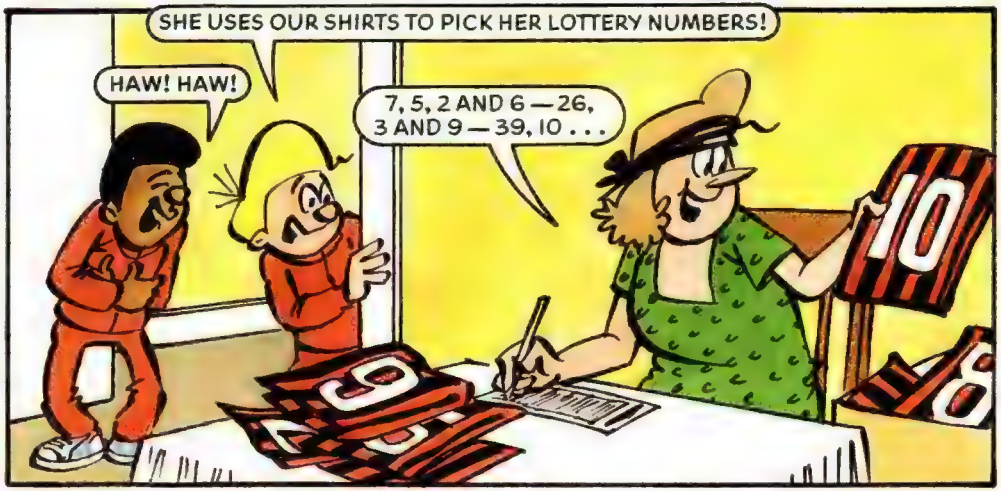
Back to the pitch again —
BAH! NOW THE LOCAL KIDS HAVE 'BORROWED' THE GOALS THEMSELVES!
ACE SWINGS!

Into the dressing room —
GASP! EVEN OUR STRIPS HAVE BEEN 'BORROWED'!
ER — THAT WILL BE MY MUM.

Returning to the footy pitch —
OUR NETS HAVE GONE, NOW!
I KNOW WHO WILL HAVE THEM.

Down at the harbour —
SORRY, B.B., BUT OUR FISHING NETS ARE BEING REPAIRED AGAIN!
WELL, PUT OUR GOAL-NETS BACK WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED!

YOUR MUM? HAS SHE GOT A WOMEN'S FOOTY TEAM?
ER, NO . . .


SHE USES OUR SHIRTS TO PICK HER LOTTERY NUMBERS!
HAW! HAW!
7, 5, 2 AND 6 — 26, 3 AND 9 — 39, 10 . . .
10
9
8

BALL BOY

ARE THE STRIPS CLEAN FOR TODAY'S GAME, MUM?
YES — I PUT THEM ON THE LINE EARLIER. THEY SHOULD BE DRY NOW.

BRR! IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE!

COO! IT IS COLD! THE STRIPS HAVE ALL FROZEN STIFF!
TAP

NO TIME TO THAW THEM OUT — THE GAME STARTS SOON.

HURRY UP AND GET INTO THEM!

WE CAN HARDLY MOVE IN THESE!

WE'RE TOO C-COLD AND ST-STIFF TO PLAY.

STUFF THIS FOR AN IDEA!

WE'LL LET OUR DEFENSIVE WALL KEEP US IN THE GAME!

BALL BOY

OH, NO! OUR ONE AND ONLY BALL . . .
BANG!

. . . IT'S FINALLY GIVEN UP THE GHOST!

HANG ON — IF WE BUNDLE A COUPLE OF TRACKSUITS TOGETHER . . .

. . . WE'VE GOT A BALL.

THIS IS FINE . . .

. . . UNTIL IT STARTS UNRAVELLING!

THAT MAN'S GOT A BALL — I'LL BORROW IT!

OH — IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT IT FOR? I SHOULD WARN YOU . . .

. . . IT'S A MEDICINE BALL!

WE'LL — PUFF! — USE THIS BALLOON.

HUH! IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS BREEZE!
FLOAT OFF!

PERHAPS I CAN ASSIST?
EH?

HOW CAN YOU HELP? YOU'VE NO BALL.
Frankie from Number 13

THAT'S USING HIS HEAD!
BOOT!
NICE ONE!

BALL
BOY

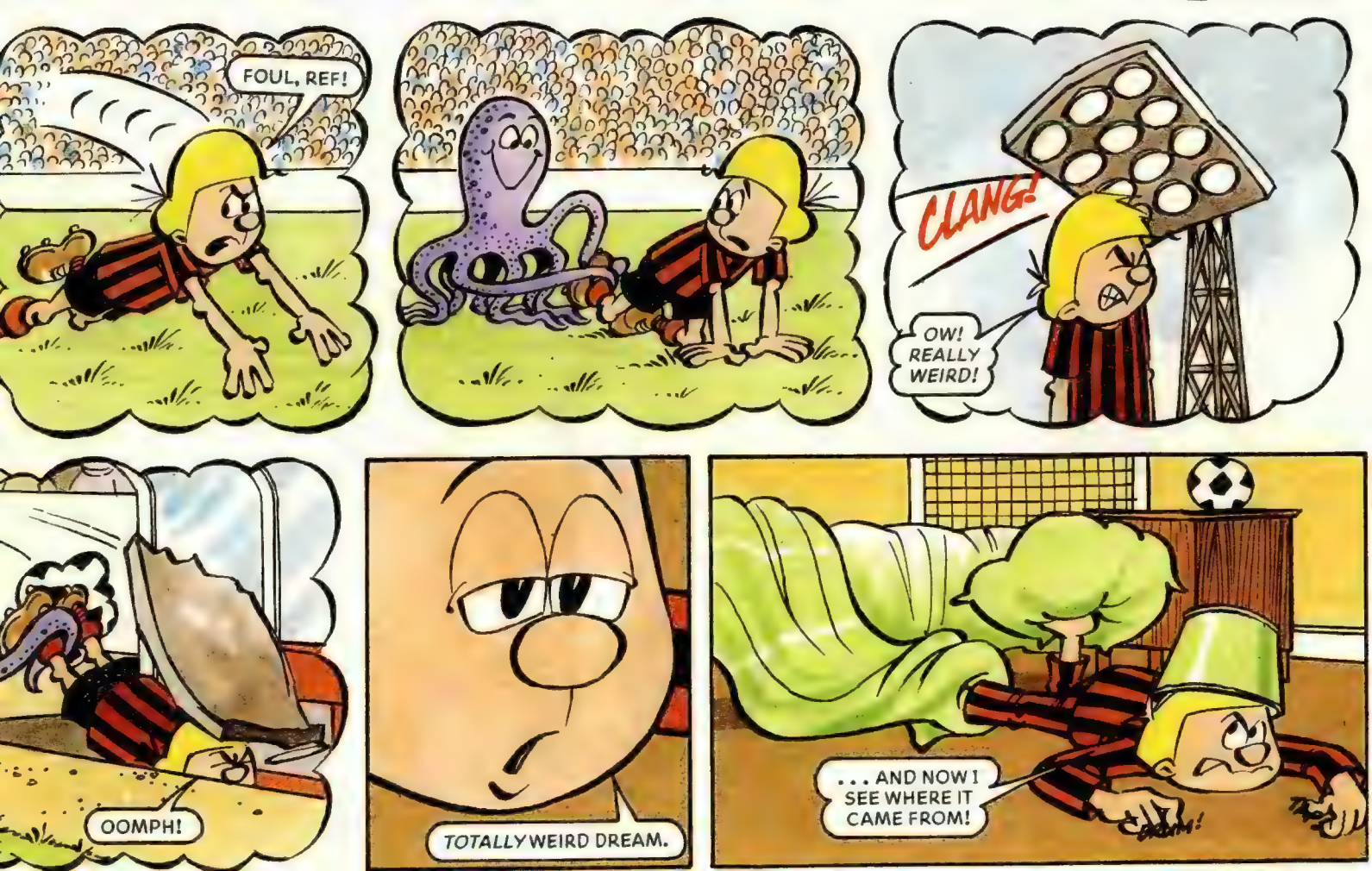
Ssh! Ball Boy's fast asleep!
ZZZZZZ

NOW TO SCORE . . .

I'LL GET THAT BALL!

HUH? IT'S ALL SOFT! WEIRDER AND WEIRDER!

WHOAH . . .!


FOUL, REF!
CLANG!
OW! REALLY WEIRD!
OOMPH!
TOTALLY WEIRD DREAM.
. . . AND NOW I SEE WHERE IT CAME FROM!

BALL BOY

BENJY'S HELPING ME DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE!

IT'S LOOKING GOOD!
ONLY THE TREE LIGHTS TO PUT ON NOW, B.B!

HAW, HAW! BRIGHT IDEA, PAL!
THERE! FINISHED!

NOW WE'RE SETTING UP THE NATIVITY SCENE!

SUPER GOAL! WISE MEN 5, SHEPHERDS 1!
BAH! MY SHEPHERDS MUST BE WATCHING THEIR FLOCKS AND NOT THE BALL!

ER — I WOULDN'T HANG THAT HOLLY UP THERE, B.B.
WHY NOT?

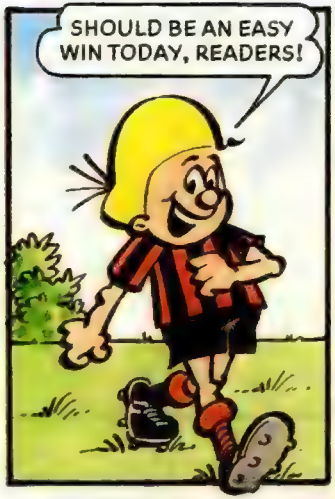
IT WOULD SPOIL OUR GAMES OF BALLOON FOOTBALL!

BALL BOY ALWAYS UNPACKS THESE!
YIPEE! THE HAMPERS HAVE ARRIVED!

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER, B.B? CHOCS? CHRISTMAS PUD?
IT'S NOT THE GRUB I WANT, BENJY!

HAW-HAW! B.B.'S USING THE HAMPER BASKETS AS MINI-GOALS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, READERS!

BALL BOY


SHOULD BE AN EASY WIN TODAY, READERS!

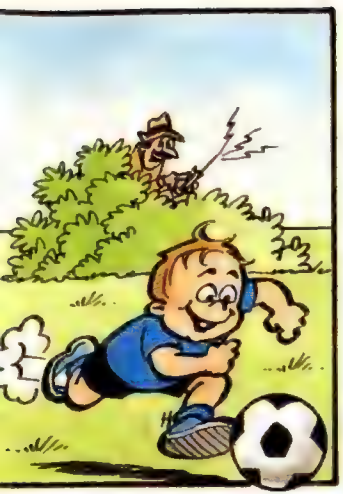
BEANOTOWN UNDER 7's — LAST TIME WE PLAYED THIS LOT, WE HAD TO STOP COUNTING GOALS!

But —
HUH?

SO THAT'S THEIR GAME! RADIO-CONTROLLED FOOTBALL BOOTS!

WE'LL SOON SEE ABOUT THAT! TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!

A return match —
CACKLE! JUST SWITCH ON THE RADIO-CONTROL, AND —



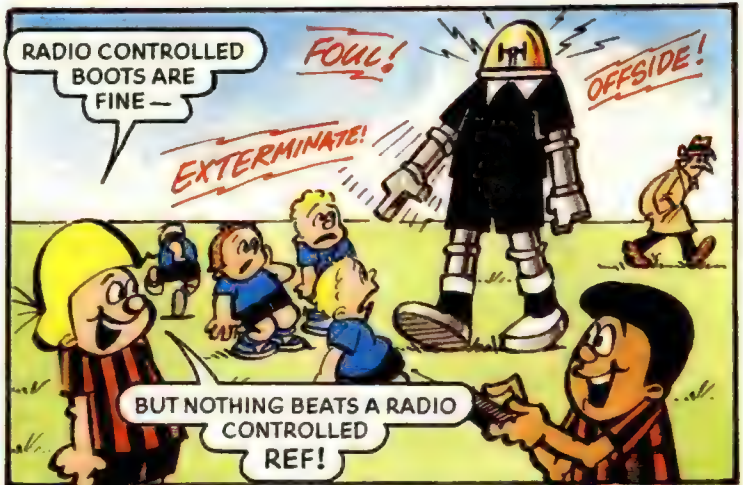
W-WOW! THEY'RE BRILLIANT.

BEATEN 26-0! STILL, BETTER CONGRATULATE THEIR COACH.

Then —
HMM . . . LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

GULP! FOUND OUT!
OUR CONTROLLER'S MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS.
CRISPIN EVEN HERE, OR RADIO VERGER WITH ANOTHER HIT FROM THE CRYPT . . .

OKAY BENJY, SWITCH HIM ON!


RADIO CONTROLLED BOOTS ARE FINE —
FOUL!
OFFSIDE!
EXTERMINATE!
BUT NOTHING BEATS A RADIO CONTROLLED REF!

BALL
BOY

WHAT A CHANCE! I MUST . . .

. . . MISS!
HONK!

NOW THERE'S AN IDEA . . .
FOOTBALL
1940-1950

ANOTHER GREAT CHANCE! AND NO HORNS TO PUT ME OFF THIS TIME!

THUNDEROUS RATTLE!

THAT'S THE THIRD TIME THIS WEEK! THAT HORN'S REALLY HONKING ME OFF.

AW!
ALL AIRHORNS BANNED BY ORDER Ball Boy

HUH! THIS IS ROTTEN — THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO.

NO! AIRHORNS! NO RATTLES!

So . . .
BALL BOY GAVE ME SOMETHING TO MAKE A NOISE WITH . . .

NOT QUITE THE SAME, IS IT?
PATHETIC TINKLE!

BALL BOY

I'M THROUGH! I MUST SCORE!

WHERE'S HE GONE?

THIS IS THE PITS!

Next half . . .
TO YOU, BENJY!

GASP! WE'RE PLAYING UPHILL, THIS HALF!

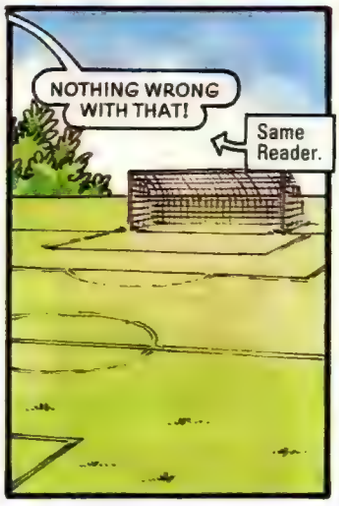
YEAH — REALLY UPHILL!

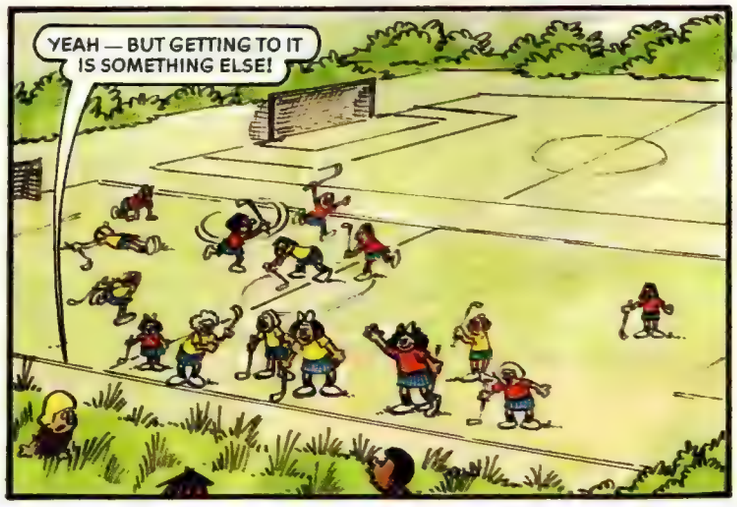
FOUL, REF!
OR SOMETHING!

YEUCH! JUST A LITTLE DAMP!

MAKE THAT VERY DAMP! HEAD FOR THE SHALLOW END.

WHY DO YOU PUT UP WITH THIS?
Reader's voice.
HAVE YOU SEEN THE ALTERNATIVE?


NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT!
Same Reader.


YEAH — BUT GETTING TO IT IS SOMETHING ELSE!

BALL BOY

NOTHING LIKE MORNING TRAINING — THE CRISP AIR, THE PEACEFUL PITCH, THE ENTHUSIASTIC TEAM —

ERR . . . TEAM?

BLEEP!
BLIP!
A-HA!

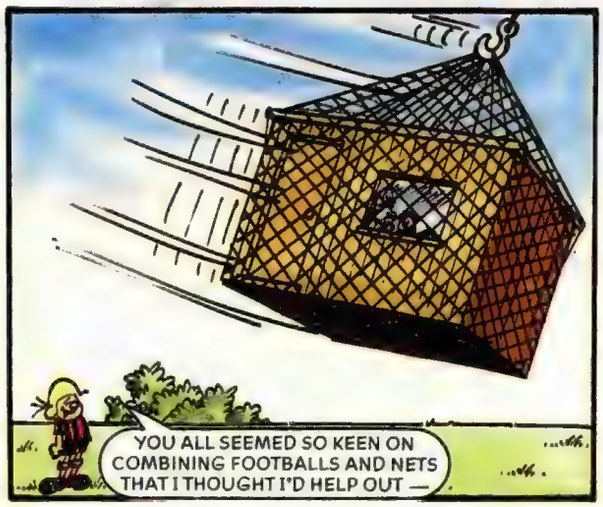
HUH! THEY'RE PLAYING SOME STUPID COMPUTER GAME.
OK!
BUZZ

COME ON YOU LOT! OUTSIDE! REAL FOOTBALL IS MUCH BETTER THAN *THIS!*
YEAH! WITH OUR COMPUTER WE CAN EVEN LINK UP TO PLAY OTHER TEAMS OVER THE NET!
NO IT'S NOT! IT'S COLD AND MUDDY.

NET, EH? I'LL GIVE THEM THE NET ALL RIGHT.
KWITTER!

Later . . .
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHIMPER! LET US DOWN!
HA HA! WITH THE HELP OF MY UNCLE AND THESE OTHER NETS I HAD A GREAT IDEA.


YOU ALL SEEMED SO KEEN ON COMBINING FOOTBALLS AND NETS THAT I THOUGHT I'D HELP OUT —

AND LET YOU ALL PLAY NETBALL!

BALL BOY

C'MON, YOU BLOOOOS!

OH, NO! IT'S FOGHORN FLEGHORN — THE LOUDEST FAN IN THE LEAGUE!

LOOKS LIKE THE OPPOSITION HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HIS SHOUTING.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO COVER OUR EARS.

OH-OH! BIT OF A PROBLEM IF OUR GOALIE DOES IT, THOUGH.

WILL YOU SHUT UP!

NOOO!

USE THIS ORANGE PEEL AS EARPLUGS.

THE EARPLUGS ARE FINE, BUT LOOK AT OUR KIT!

THIS'LL SORT THINGS OUT — HERE, FOGHORN — TAKE THIS.
EH?

JUST TIE THIS HERE . . .

Next half —
HAR, HAR! MY THROAT SWEETS ARE JUST THE THING.

GASP! YOU'RE NOT JOINING THE OPPOSITION ARE YOU, BB? YOU'D HAVE TO LISTEN TO FOGHORN EVERY WEEK!

THERE, THERE, FOGHORN — YOU DON'T WANT A SORE THROAT RUINING YOUR VOICE, DO YOU?

WELL DONE, BB — WE CAN TAKE OFF THESE ITCHY BALACLAVAS NOW!

BALL BOY

GROAN! I'VE COME DOWN ILL — I'M SICKER THAN A PARROT WITH PLUMAGE PROBLEMS! YOU'LL NEED ANOTHER KEEPER!
BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT AWAY GAME!

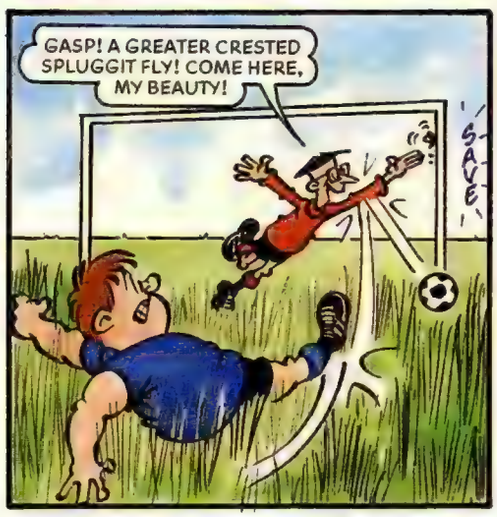
GEE WHIZZ! THAT STUFF REALLY IS CATCHING!
SUDDENLY SPOTTY

Many germ-ridden calls later . . .
EVERYONE HAS GONE DOWN ILL. EXCEPT . . .

COO! LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE A HIPPOPOTAMUS EGG!
. . . NORM THE NATURALIST.

At the game . . .
LOOK AT ALL THAT GRASS. THE PITCH IS LIKE A JUNGLE!
DID SOMEONE SAY . . . JUNGLE?

RUMBLE!
HA-HA! EAT DOOM PIE, SHORTY!
WAAH!


GASP! A GREATER CRESTED SPLUGGIT FLY! COME HERE, MY BEAUTY!
SAVE!

Later . . .
HEAD!
AMAZING! A RARE SPLUNGE WARBLER BIRD!

MUST FOLLOW IT!
HE'S TAKING THE BALL WITH HIM!

GOAL! WHAT A DRIBBLE! WHAT A SHOT!
GASP!
PHEEP!

WHAT A PLAYER! BRILLIANT!
YEAH. ER . . . WHAT DID I DO?
LOOK AT THE OPPOSITION — THEY'RE REAL WILD LIFE! HA-HA!

BALL BOY

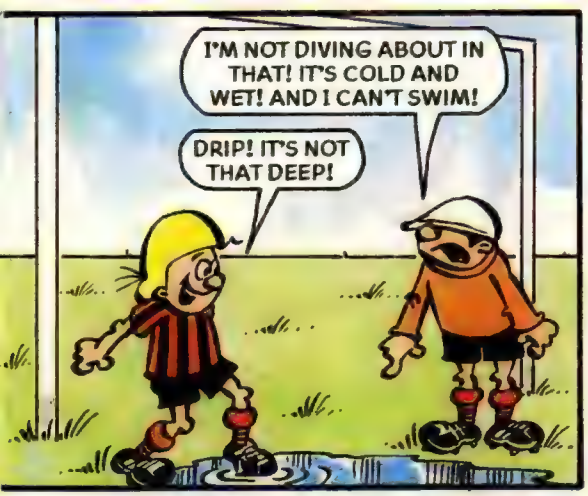
CATCH, GOALIE!
BOOT!

DOH! WHERE IS GOALIE?

Torrid towellings later —
READY? LOOK!
WHAT IS IT? A JET SKI?

Not quite!
I AM NOT WEARING A FLIPPING RUBBER RING!

HUMPH! I'M OFF!
FRAAASP!
WHAT'LL WE DO, B.B.? WE CAN'T PLAY WITHOUT A GOALIE!

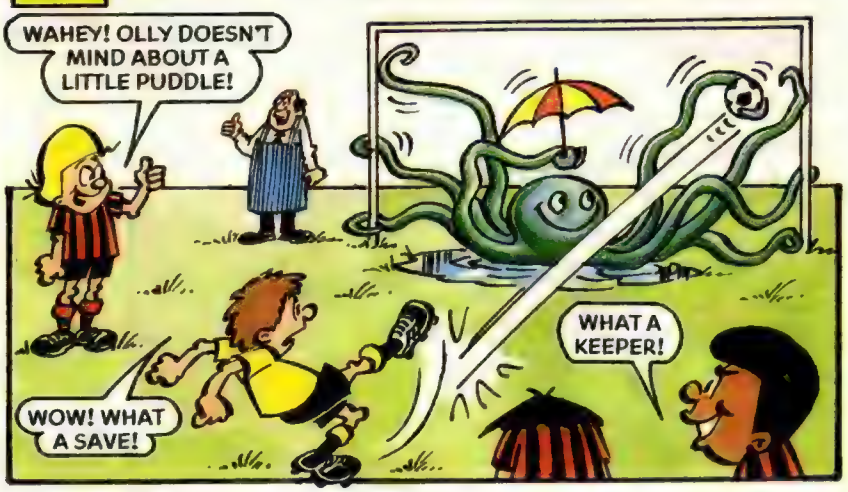

I'M NOT DIVING ABOUT IN THAT! IT'S COLD AND WET! AND I CAN'T SWIM!
DRIP! IT'S NOT THAT DEEP!

YES IT IS!
GLAAGH!

OKAY! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO, GOALIE!

I KNOW! I'LL GIVE MR. CODD A RING!

So —
SURE, BALL BOY! I'LL SEND YOU ONE RIGHT AWAY!
MR CODD, TEAM SPONSOR & FISHMONGER


And —
WAHEY! OLLY DOESN'T MIND ABOUT A LITTLE PUDDLE!
WOW! WHAT A SAVE!
WHAT A KEEPER!

BALL BOY

I COULD PLAY FOOTBALL FOR LOTS OF COUNTRIES, BENJY.
WHAT?

I CAN PLAY FOR SCOTLAND OR ENGLAND.
BUT WHY?

YIPPEE! IT'S A BOY!
SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
I WAS BORN ON A PLANE JUST AS IT FLEW OVER THE BORDER!
HA-HA!

AND MY DAD IS WELSH!
SO THAT'S WHY HE PLANTS LEEKS ON OUR PITCH?

AND MY GRANNY COMES FROM INDIA!
THAT EXPLAINS . . .

FIERY HEAT!
. . . YOUR TASTE IN CURRY CRISPS!

I JUST CAN'T DECIDE WHICH COUNTRY I'LL PLAY FOR.

BALL BOY IS DECIDING HIS INTERNATIONAL FUTURE THE FAIR WAY!
HERE GOES!

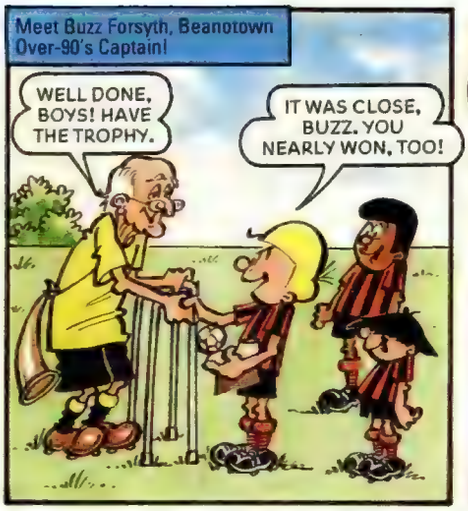
UH? GREENLAND?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW, IF THEY HAVE A TEAM!
NOTHING GETS PAST SANTA IN GOAL! HA-HA!

BALL BOY

It's The Beanotown 5-a-side Cup Final —
GOAL! AND THE WINNER! WE WIN THE CUP!
BLAST!
WHAT WAS THAT, YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER?

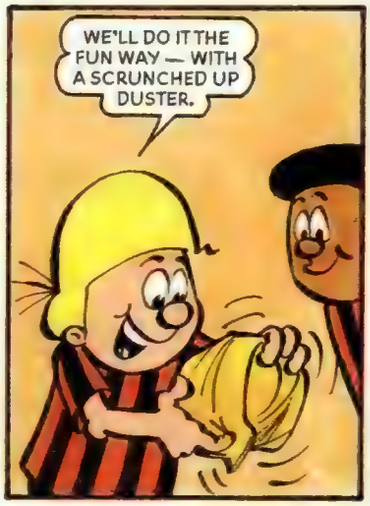
Final whistle —
WE'VE WON!
WOW! OUR FIRST TROPHY IN YEARS!
SWOOSH


Meet Buzz Forsyth, Beanotown Over-90's Captain!
WELL DONE, BOYS! HAVE THE TROPHY.
IT WAS CLOSE, BUZZ. YOU NEARLY WON, TOO!

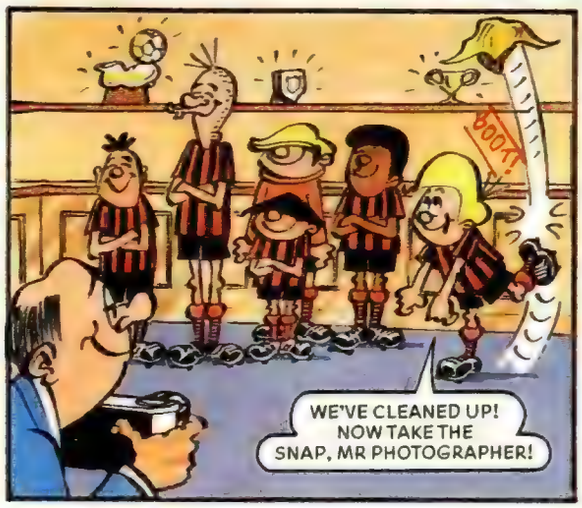
WE'LL GET A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN WITH ALL OUR OTHER TROPHIES!

BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN OUR TROPHY ROOM FOR SOME TIME.
TROPHY ROOM
CREAK OPEN

ER, A LONG, LONG TIME! WE'LL HAVE TO CLEAN UP ALL THIS DUST AND COBWEBS!
OOM
OO! I HATE CLEANING!


WE'LL DO IT THE FUN WAY — WITH A SCRUNCHED UP DUSTER.

BOP!
BAP!
GREAT TRAINING, HUH?


BOOM!
WE'VE CLEANED UP! NOW TAKE THE SNAP, MR PHOTOGRAPHER!

CLICK

But —
BAH! LOOK WHERE THE DUSTER FELL!

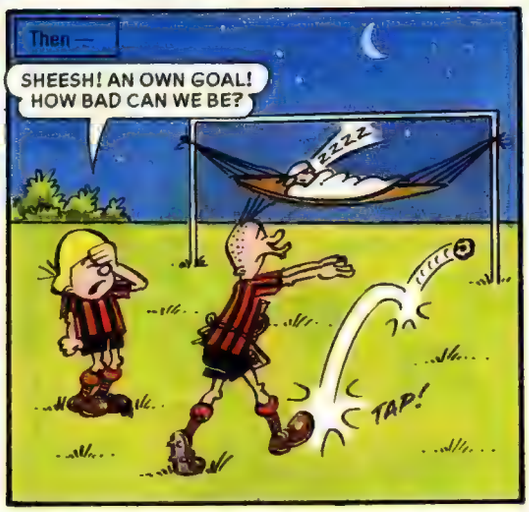
BALL BOY

RING!

RING!!!
YIKES!
THUMP

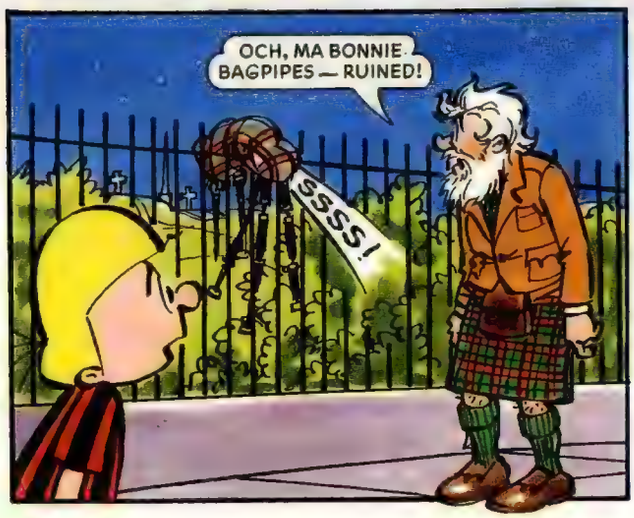
OO! IT'S SO EARLY! AND I HATE TRAMPING ALL THIS WAY FOR EARLY MORNING TRAINING!

And —
'SPECIALLY TO TRAIN WITH THIS DOZY LOT.
ZZZ!
DOZE!


Then —
SHEESH! AN OWN GOAL! HOW BAD CAN WE BE?
ZZZZ
TAP!

On the way home —
SKIRL!
WOW! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?

GET OUT AND STAY OUT! CAN'T A VAMPIRE GET SOME BEAUTY SLEEP AROUND HERE?
AH JIST WANTED SOMEWHERE QUIET TAE PRACTISE!


OCH, MA BONNIE BAGPIPES — RUINED!
SSSSS!

I THINK I CAN HELP YOU — IF YOU'LL DO ME A FAVOUR!
AYE?

Early next morning —
TIME FOR THEIR WAKE-UP CALL!
ZZZ!

EEK!
BLAST!
WH — ?

IT'S A BRAW BLAW, LADDIE!
BLAST!
BLARE!
SKIRL!
HOOT!
GASP!
HA-HA! I LET HIM BORROW MY HI-FI TO PLAY HIS PIPES THROUGH. IT HAS CERTAINLY WOKEN UP THE TEAM'S IDEAS!
SCREECH!
SKIRL!

BALL BOY

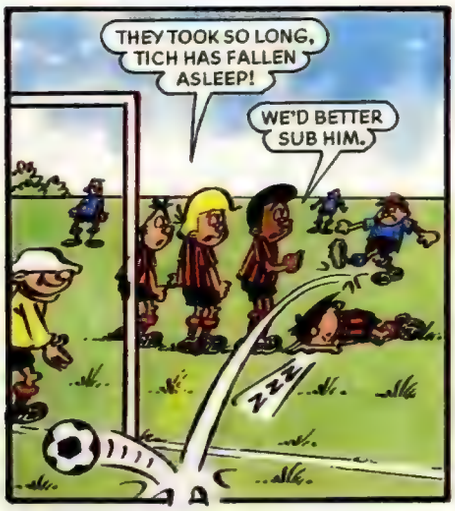
THIS CUP GAME IS NIL-NIL! WE NEED A LATE GOAL TO WIN!
SLICE!
HURRY UP, BALL BOY! THERE'S ONLY A FEW MINUTES LEFT!

YOU TAKE THE THROW-IN!
HOW KIND. BUT LET HIM TAKE IT!
ME? WELL, I'LL TRY!
BAH! OUR OPPONENTS ARE TIME WASTING.

Soon —
HURRY UP WITH YOUR GOAL KICK, 'KEEPER!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
OH, MUST I?

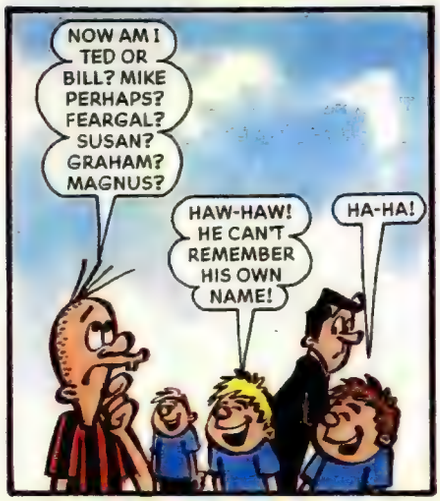
FOUL!
HUH! HE DIVED TO GET THAT FOUL!
PEEP!
DIVE!

JUST GOT TO MAKE SURE YOUR WALL IS BACK FAR ENOUGH!
MORE TIME WASTING!
YAWN
MOVE BACK ONE AND A HALF CENTIMETRES, PLEASE!


THEY TOOK SO LONG, TICH HAS FALLEN ASLEEP!
WE'D BETTER SUB HIM.
ZZZ

TA!
ON YOU COME, DIMMY!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, PLAYER?
OO! ER. WELL . . .


NOW AM I TED OR BILL? MIKE PERHAPS? FEARGAL? SUSAN? GRAHAM? MAGNUS?
HAW-HAW! HE CAN'T REMEMBER HIS OWN NAME!
HA-HA!

And —
NORBERT? WILLIAM? RODNEY? TITO?
HO-HO!
THAT'S IT, BENJY. TAKE A QUICK THROW IN!

WAHEY! I'VE SCORED THE WINNING GOAL! YOU'RE A SUPER SUB, DIMMY!
DIMMY — THAT'S IT!
BOOT!
OH, NO! WE DIDN'T REALISE THE GAME HAD RESTARTED!

BALL BOY

GOING UP FOR A HEADER, BB?
Reader's voice:
LEAP!

AHEM! NOT QUITE!
TWIRL!
TWIRL, MY LOVELIES! DANCE FOR TEACHER.

I THOUGHT 'BB' STOOD FOR BALL BOY, NOT BALLET BOY!
WATCH IT! DANCING TRAINING IS ALL THE RAGE.

IT MAKES YOU MOVE BETTER! TEACHES YOU MUSCLE CONTROL AND STUFF.

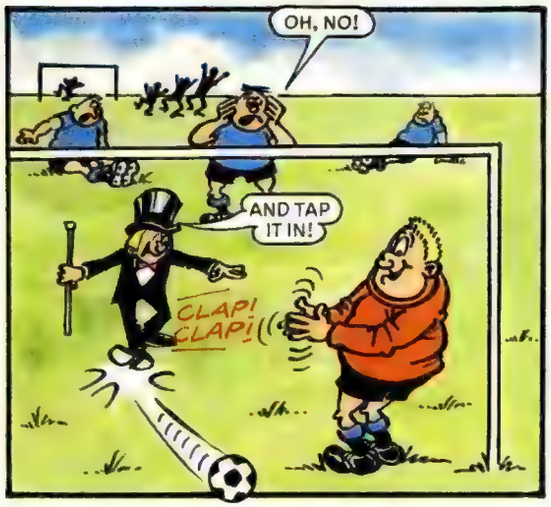
So, at a game —
HAW-HAW! YOU LOT LOOK LIKE SOPPY GIRLS! NICE LEGS, LUVVIES!
HA-HA-HA-HA! MOCK!
GRR! WE'LL TEACH YOU!

Later —
FREE-KICK!
PEEP!

WELL, OUR LINE DANCING TRAINING SHOULD HELP US!

WOW! HE'S WALTZING THROUGH THEM ALL!
ZIP!
PLENTY OF BALL ROOM!

BRAVO! MORE!
AND NOW, SOME FANCY FOOT-WORK.
FANTASTIC! SUPER!


OH, NO!
AND TAP IT IN!
CLAP! CLAP!

WAHEY! THOSE DANCE CLASSES HELPED BB LEAD THE OPPOSITION A MERRY DANCE!
EVERYBODY CONGA!
WHAT A TWINKLE-TOED BUNCH!

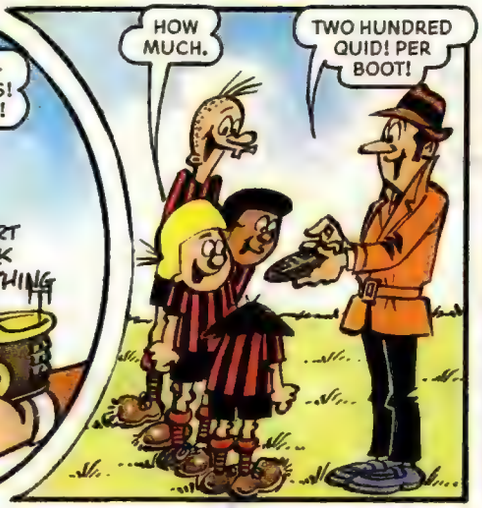
BALL BOY

Reader's voice.
PLAYING AGAINST BILLY WHIZZ, BALL BOY?
ZOOM
WOW!

NO. EVERYONE IS QUICKER THAN ME. IT'S MY OLD BOOTS— THEY'RE HEAVIER THAN FATTY WITH A TAKE AWAY!

PERHAPS I COULD HELP YOU. I'VE GOT JUST WHAT YOU NEED.

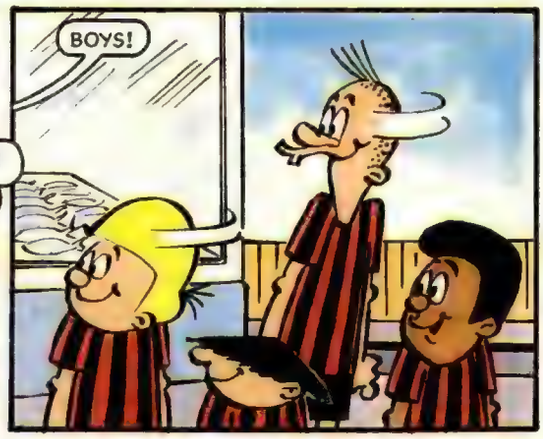
WOW! THE ULTRA-NEW SUPER-FAST WALLOP BOOTS! THEY'RE FANTASTIC!
MEGA-SMART
MEGA-SLICK
MEGA EVERYTHING
WALLOP


HOW MUCH.
TWO HUNDRED QUID! PER BOOT!

So —
NOPE! I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DOSH. I'M ONLY £399.51 SHORT!
49p.

WAIT A MINUTE. SPONSORSHIP! THAT'S IT!

And —
MR CODD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD SPONSOR US — AS LONG AS WE PUT HIS NAME ON OUR STUFF.
C. CODD FISHMONGER
EVEN THE SHOES? CODD'S WALLOP! NOT VERY GLAMOROUS!


BOYS!

IF YOU JUST PUT THESE ON WITH YOUR KIT, EVERY THING WILL BE FINE.
SURE, MR CODD.

At the game —
LOVELY FISH!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THERE'D BE SOMETHING FISHY WITH THIS DEAL!
HA-HA!
WALLOP
WALLOP
OO! CRABBED!

BALL BOY

IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT, AWAY FROM FOOTBALL!
YEAH!

THERE'S NO FOOTY IN THIS BURGER JOINT.

NO? WATCH MY CHIPS.

GOAL POSTS!
WE NEED A BALL!

THAT'S THE BALL — A PICKLED ONION. LET'S PLAY!
PLOP!

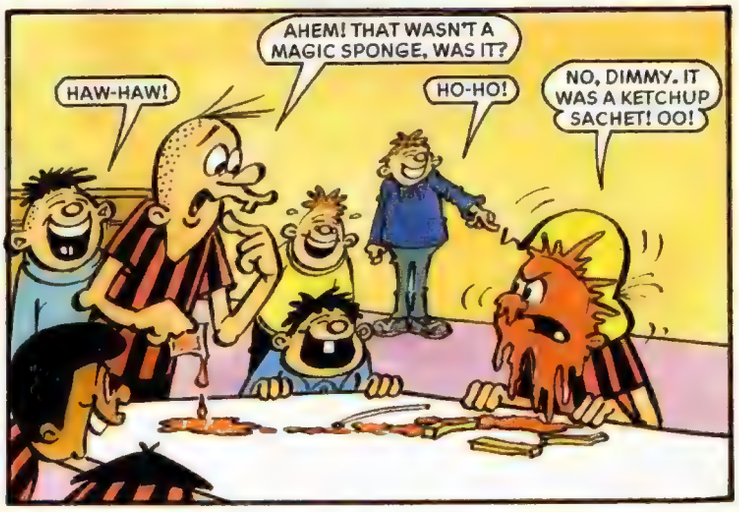
DRINKS STRAWS FOR BLOW FOOTBALL!
WOW!
PUFF!

BALL BOY! BALL BOY!
BENJY! BENJY!

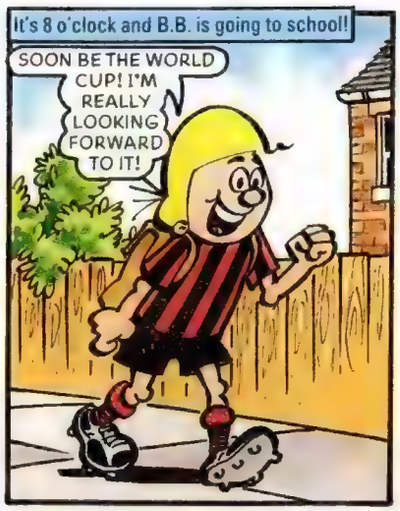
YEOW!
BOP!
MIGHTY PUFF!

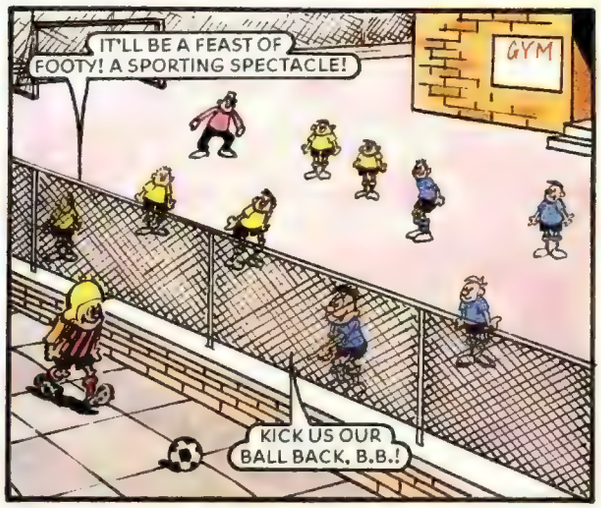
TRAINER! TRAINER! I'M INJURED!
THAT'S ME! MAGIC SPONGE, B.B.?

SPLURF!


AHEM! THAT WASN'T A MAGIC SPONGE, WAS IT?
HAW-HAW!
HO-HO!
NO, DIMMY. IT WAS A KETCHUP SACHET! OO!

BALL BOY


It's 8 o'clock and B.B. is going to school!
SOON BE THE WORLD CUP! I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!


IT'LL BE A FEAST OF FOOTY! A SPORTING SPECTACLE!
GYM
KICK US OUR BALL BACK, B.B.!

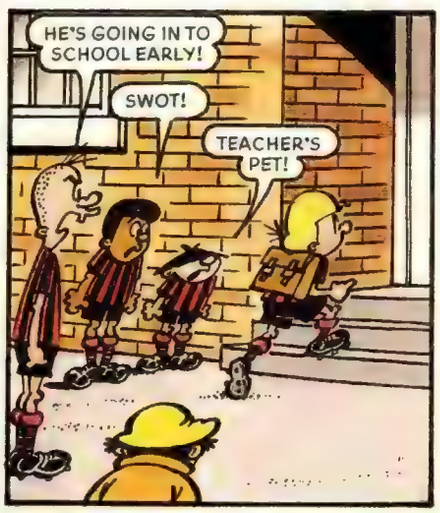
A SOCCER SUPERSHOW! A BANQUET OF BALL SKILLS!
UH? HE JUST IGNORED IT!

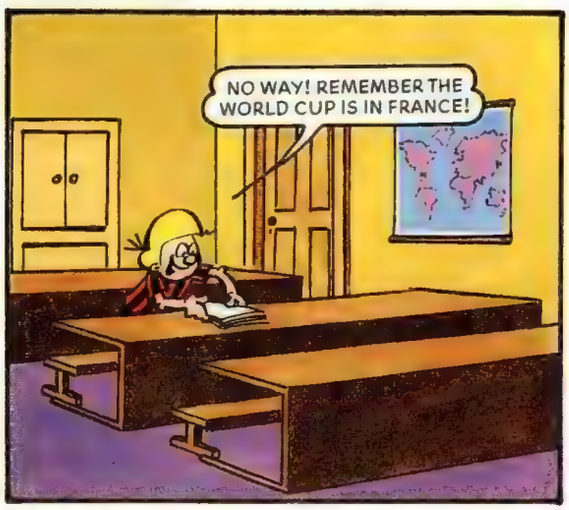
Then —
WATCH B.B. CONTROL THIS, POOCH.
TOSS!

BOP!
AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.
WOW!
HEE-HEE-HEE!
AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF EXCELLENCE!

And —
AND BENJY CROSSES FOR BALL BOY TO HEAD INTO THE NET!
CHIP!
I CAN'T WAIT!

MIND MY SCHOOL BAG — IT'S GOT MY JOTTERS IN IT!
LEAP!
WOW! WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?

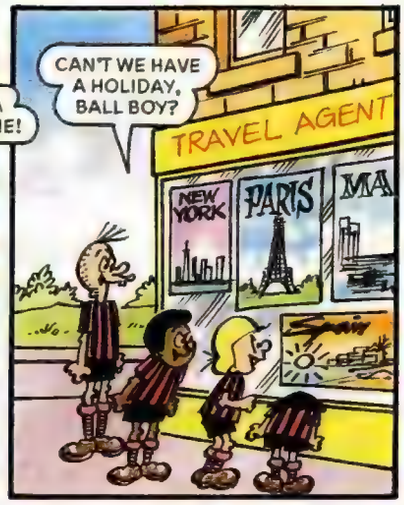

HE'S GOING IN TO SCHOOL EARLY!
SWOT!
TEACHER'S PET!

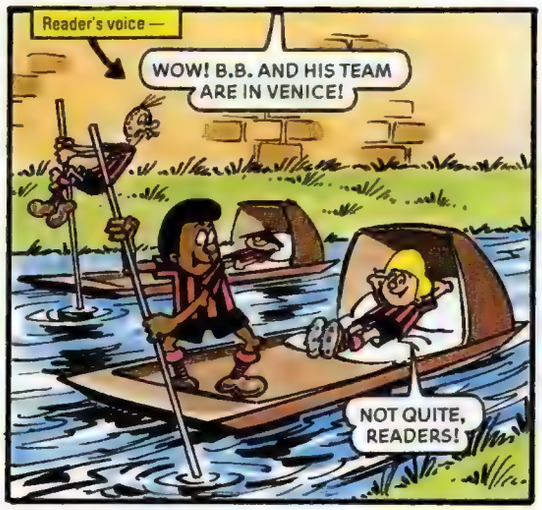

NO WAY! REMEMBER THE WORLD CUP IS IN FRANCE!

SO I NEED ALL THE HELP WITH MY FRENCH I CAN GET.
ECOSSE POUR LA CUP!
REF! TU EST BLIND AS LE BAT! OU ET LE PIES ET LA BOVRIL? DONNEZ-NOUS UNE GOAL!
MR McTAVISH IS HELPING ME WITH ALL THE FRENCH PHRASES I'LL BE USING!

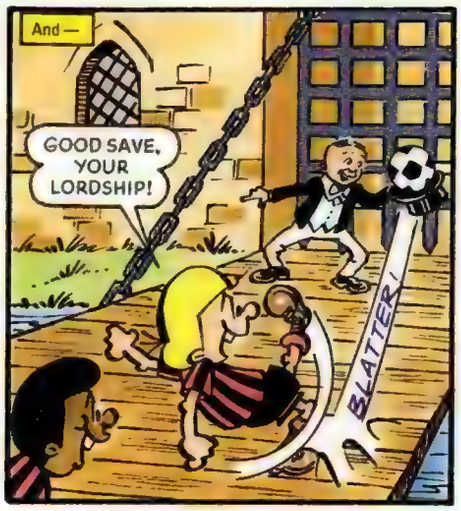
BALL BOY

UNITED HAVE BEEN TO SPAIN FOR A HOLIDAY!
HOLA, BOYS!
Y VIVA LASAGNE!
THEY LOOK REFRESHED!

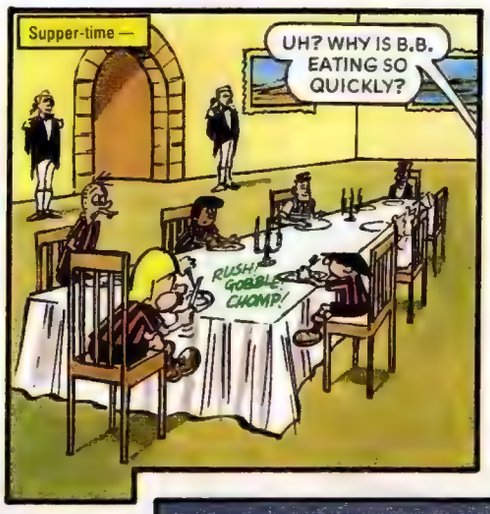

CAN'T WE HAVE A HOLIDAY, BALL BOY?
TRAVEL AGENT
NEW YORK
PARIS
Spain


Reader's voice —
WOW! B.B. AND HIS TEAM ARE IN VENICE!
NOT QUITE, READERS!

I'VE FIXED US A HOLIDAY WITH LORD SNOOTY AT BUNKERTON CASTLE!
STUCK
YIKES!


And —
GOOD SAVE, YOUR LORDSHIP!
BLATTER!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!
SNOOTY'S CANNON IS FAB FOR HEADING PRACTICE.


Supper-time —
UH? WHY IS B.B. EATING SO QUICKLY?
RUSH! GOBBLE! CHOMP!

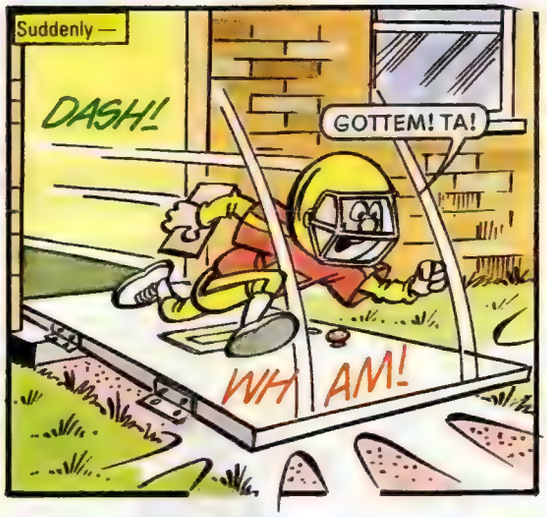
SO WE CAN PLAY A GAME OF TABLE FOOTBALL!
IT'S THE LONGEST PITCH IN THE WORLD!

Later —
WE'VE GOT LOTS OF ROOMS IN THE CASTLE. WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT, B.B.?
ER, SEND ME TO THE TOWER, SNOOTY!
BUT, WHY?

SO WE CAN WATCH BUNKERTON ATHLETIC'S EVENING MATCH! WE'VE GOT A GRANDSTAND VIEW!
BRILLIANT!

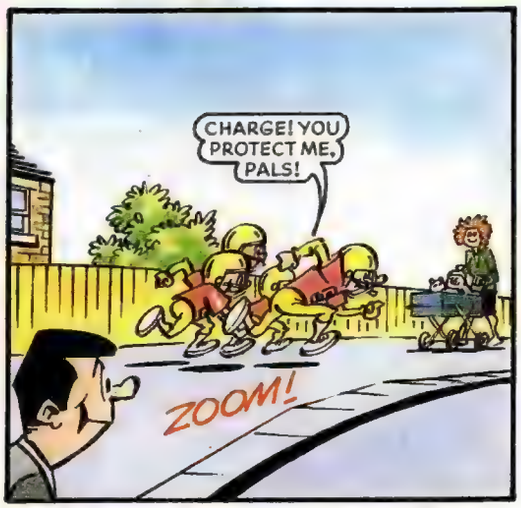
BALL BOY

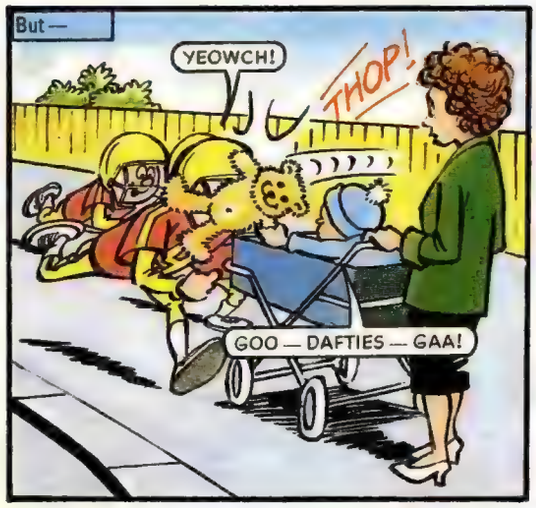
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT!

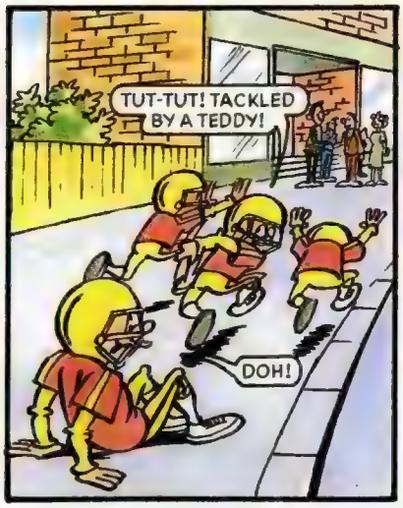

Suddenly —
DASH!
GOTTEM! TA!
WHAM!

ARE WE READY, TEAM?
WE SURE ARE.

THINK THEY'VE CHANGED TO AMERICAN FOOTBALL, READERS?


CHARGE! YOU PROTECT ME, PALS!
ZOOM!

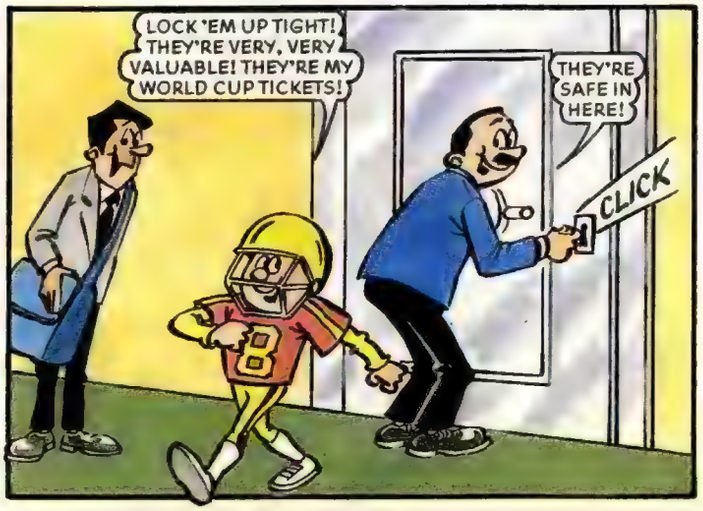

But —
YEOWCH!
THOP!
GOO — DAFTIES — GAA!


TUT-TUT! TACKLED BY A TEDDY!
DOH!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M A POLITICIAN! VOTE FOR ME! GO ON, BE A PAL! VOTE FOR ME!
EH?
OH!
I'M TOO YOUNG, MR KEMP.

BANK
BEANOTOWN BANK
THIS IS THE PLACE.

I WAS EXPECTING YOU, BALL BOY.
TOUCHDOWN!


LOCK 'EM UP TIGHT! THEY'RE VERY, VERY VALUABLE! THEY'RE MY WORLD CUP TICKETS!
THEY'RE SAFE IN HERE!
CLICK

BALL BOY

Ball Boy and his team are off to The World Cup!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO PARIS! WE'RE ALL GOING TO PARIS!

I'VE GOT THE MATCH TICKETS.
I'VE GOT THE SCARVES.
I'VE GOT —
I'VE GOT SANDWICHES.

PARP!

— OUR HORN! BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SO LOUD!
SORRY, LADS! JUST TESTING THE SHIP'S HORN!

One Channel-crossing later —
AH! FRANCE! BONJOUR!
LET'S GET TO PARIS.

And —
WOW! THE STADE DE FRANCE! IT'S WHERE THE FINAL WILL BE!
GOBSMACKING!

NEVER MIND THAT! LET'S GO!
UH? WHAT'S UP?

WE'RE PLAYING A FRIENDLY MATCH AGAINST A LOCAL FRENCH TEAM.
WOW! BET THEY'RE GOOD! WHO DO WE PLAY?

THEM!
GIRLS??? WE'LL BEAT THEM EASILY! HA-HA!

But —
BOOT!
LE
OH, NO! THEY'VE SCORED STRAIGHT FROM THE KICK-OFF!

WE'VE LOST 23-0! THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE PLAY A TEAM OF CAN-CAN DANCERS!
LA BLOOTER!
LE NO PROBS!
LA JUST LIKE ZE HIGH-KICKING CAN-CAN. NON?
LE EASY!

BALL BOY

VIVE LA FRANCE! THE WHOLE WORLD IS HERE FOR THE WORLD CUP!

SEE WHAT I MEAN?
BONJOUR!
GUTEN TAG!
G'DAY, COBBER!

And —
WE LOST TO GERMANY. SAUDI ARABIA NEXT.
KICK-OFF, CAMPBELL!

HEH-HEH! NICE 'N' SNEEZY, CAMPBELL!
PEPPER
P-CHOO!
OH-OH! ANOTHER DEFEAT, I THINK!

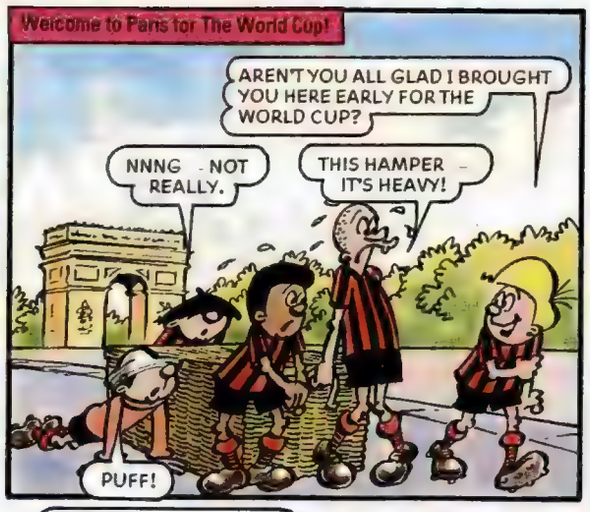
WE'VE LOST EVERY GAME. IS THERE ANY TEAM IN THE WORLD WE CAN BEAT?
TAP!
TAP!

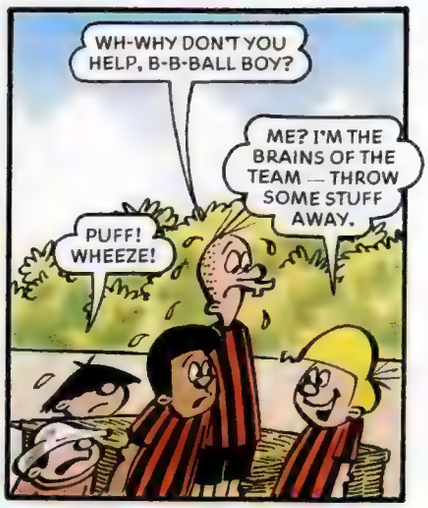
WHAT? YOU FUNNY-LOOKING LOT WANT A GAME? YOU'RE ON!
LOOKS A BIT UN-FAIR! THESE GUYS ARE TOO FAT!

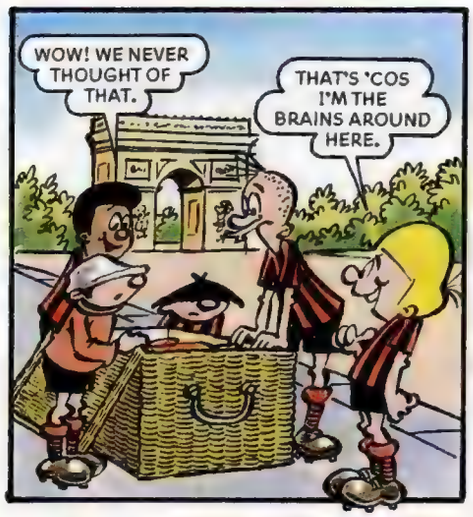
AND THEY'VE GOT TOO MANY LEGS! BUT WE CAN STILL WIN. GOAL!
BOOT!
FOOD?
FOOD?

So —
WE'RE ALL GOING TO PLAY THE OTHER SUPPORTERS' TEAMS.
GERMANS FIRST.
IT'LL BE FUN TO SEE HOW OTHER COUNTRIES PLAY.
HANS!
HEAD!
KNEES!
BOP!
UND BUMS-A-DAISY!
BUMP!
KICK!
WOW! WHAT A GOAL!
WE'RE GOING TO GET STUFFED!
Next —
JUST THE ARGENTINA KEEPER TO BEAT!
But —
WHOP!
YEOWCH!
SLAM!
OLA!
OLE!
OO! I FORGOT! ALL THE ARGENTINIANS ARE GAUCHOS! THEY PLAY WITH BOLAS!
FOOD?
FOOD?
Soon —
WELL, WE WON A GAME AT LAST. PHEW!
YES, BUT —
WOW! I DON'T KNOW!
WHO WERE THESE LITTLE GREY THREE-LEGGED GUYS? WHO ON EARTH WERE THEY SUPPORTING?
WHO? WHAT THEM? UH? WHO WERE THEY?
SEE YOU!
SPOOKY!
OUT OF THIS WORLD, MAN!

BALL BOY


Welcome to Paris for The World Cup!
AREN'T YOU ALL GLAD I BROUGHT YOU HERE EARLY FOR THE WORLD CUP?
NNNG - NOT REALLY.
THIS HAMPER - IT'S HEAVY!
PUFF!

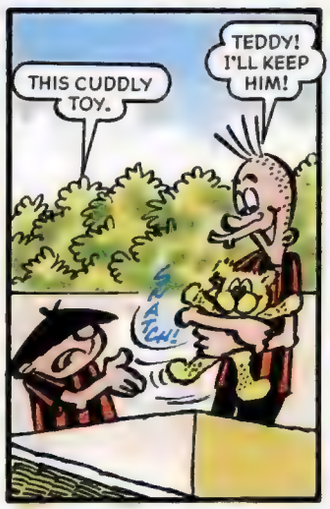

WH-WHY DON'T YOU HELP, B-B-BALL BOY?
ME? I'M THE BRAINS OF THE TEAM — THROW SOME STUFF AWAY.
PUFF! WHEEZE!


WOW! WE NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT.
THAT'S 'COS I'M THE BRAINS AROUND HERE.

CHANGE STRIP. SECOND CHANGE STRIP. THIRD SPARE STRIP. ANOTHER SPARE STRIP . . .
THUMP! THUNK! PLUT!
OH-OH!
WHOA!

TIMBER! DOH!
PLATFORM FOOTBALL BOOTS? DO WE NEED THESE?
WHUMP!
SPLAT!

AHEM! YES! NOW WHAT ABOUT THAT?
WHAT?
GRAB!


THIS CUDDLY TOY.
TEDDY! I'LL KEEP HIM!
SNATCH!

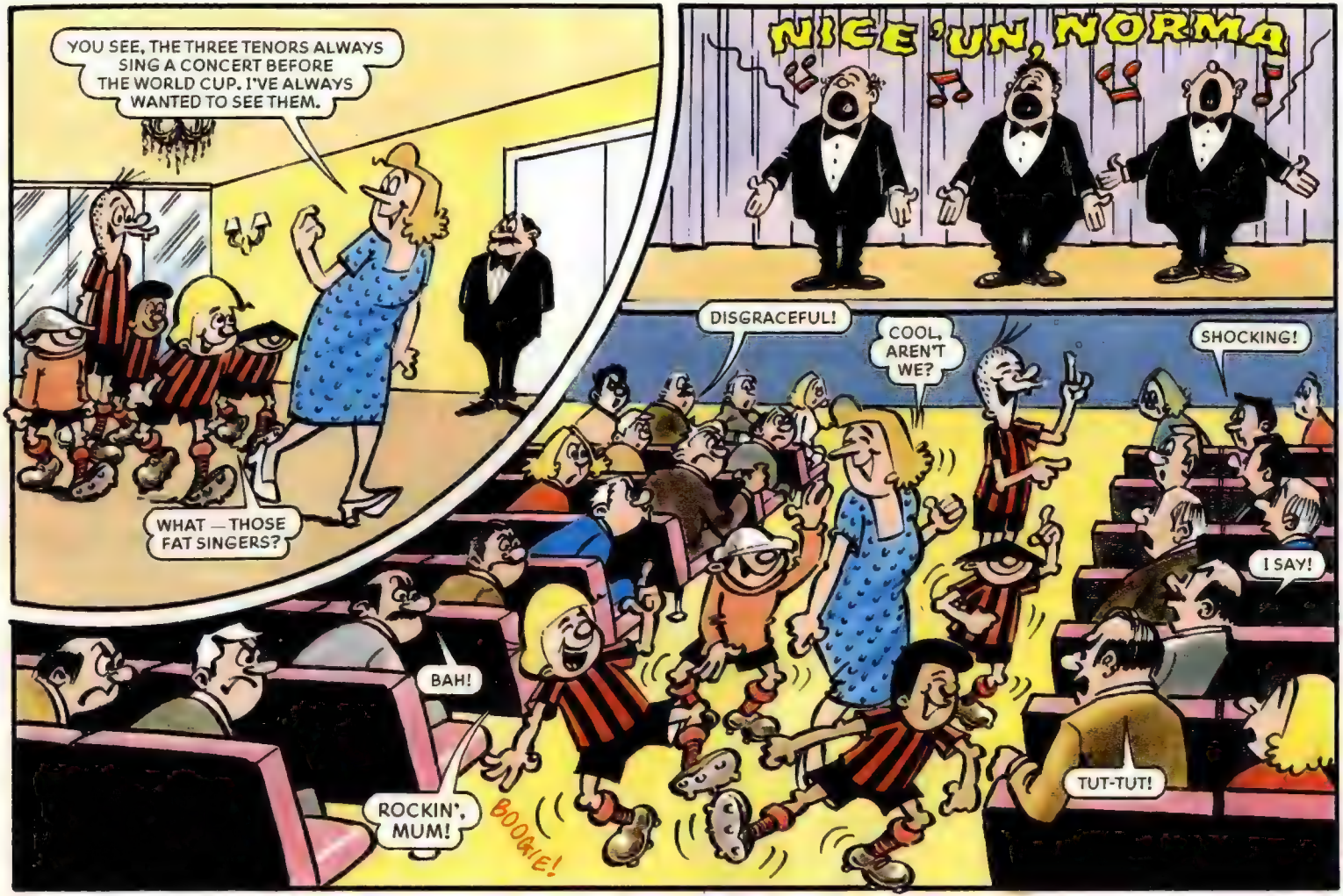
WHAT A LOT OF RUBBISH. NO WONDER IT'S HEAVY. WHAT'S LEFT?
HUH!

JUST YOUR MUM.
FAIR ENOUGH.

MY MUM????
WOW!
UH?

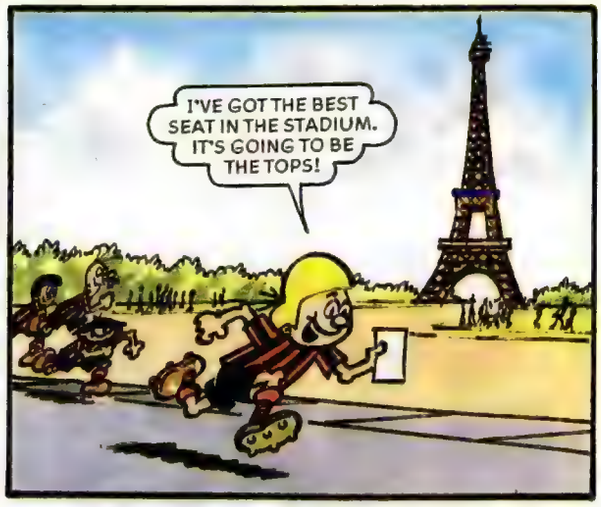
HELLO, BALL BOY.
MUM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN PARIS?

PARIS AT LAST! THANKS FOR THE LIFT, TEAM!
SO THAT'S WHY THE HAMPER WAS SO HEAVY!


YOU SEE, THE THREE TENORS ALWAYS SING A CONCERT BEFORE THE WORLD CUP. I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THEM.
WHAT — THOSE FAT SINGERS?
NICE 'UN, NORMA
DISGRACEFUL!
COOL, AREN'T WE?
SHOCKING!
I SAY!
BAH!
ROCKIN', MUM!
BOOGIE!
TUT-TUT!

BALL BOY

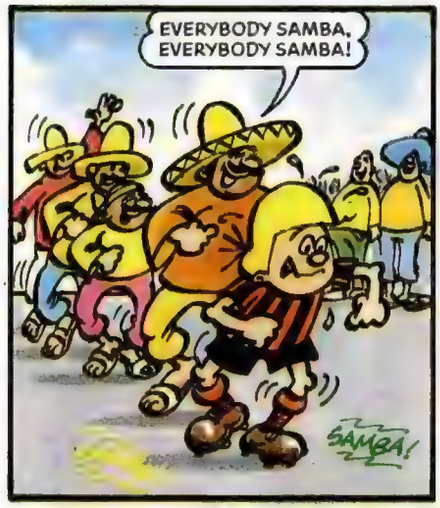
BRILLIANT! I'VE GOT A TICKET FOR THE OPENING GAME IN THE WORLD CUP. I'VE WAITED YEARS FOR THIS! I'M SO EXCITED! YEE-HAR! GREAT, HUH?
SCOTLAND v. BRAZIL
Reader's voice.
CALM DOWN, B.B.!


I'VE GOT THE BEST SEAT IN THE STADIUM. IT'S GOING TO BE THE TOPS!

WOW! THE CROWD HAVE ARRIVED EARLY.
TIME FOR A PARTY, MON!
SI, MCSENOR!

HOOCH! FLING YERSEL'!
WAHEY!
MY DANCE!

NOW, BLAW, B.B.!
HEFTY BLAW!


EVERYBODY SAMBA, EVERYBODY SAMBA!
SAMBA!

GOSH! THIS IS HARD WORK!
BA-DA-BOOM-DA-DA-BOOM-DA-DA-BOOM!

Much partying and some cavorting later —
TIME FOR THE GAME, LADS.
PHEW! I'M ALL POOPED OUT PARTYING!

AH! BEST SEATS IN THE STADIUM. NICE AND COMFY. GASP! I'M SO TIRED!

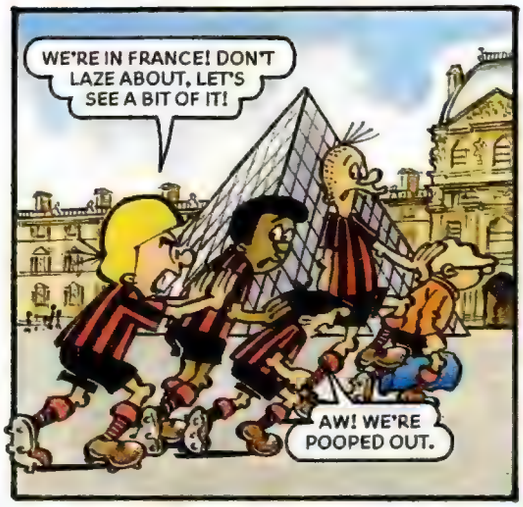
HOOTS!
CARAMBA!
I'LL JUST— REST — MY — EYES A — BIT. ZZZ.

GOAL! 1-0 SCOTLAND!
ZZZZZZ!
ZIS FUNNY WAY TO ZEE MATCH!
WAKE UP, MON! IT'S FOUR YEARS TO THE NEXT ONE, BALL BOY. CRIVVENS!

BALL BOY

WELL, SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND HAVE PLAYED THEIR FIRST GAMES.
WE'VE SUNG!
AND ROARED!
AND SHOUTED!
WE'RE EXHAUSTED!

YEAH! WE NEED A REST.
NO WAY, TEAM!
AAA!


WE'RE IN FRANCE! DON'T LAZE ABOUT, LET'S SEE A BIT OF IT!
AW! WE'RE POOPED OUT.

So, at The Louvre —
THE FAMOUS MONA LISA. WHAT A PAINTING!
FUNNY GRIN!
THAT'S NOT GOOD PAINTING.

YEAH! GREAT FACE PAINTS, GOALIE!
NOW THIS IS PAINTING!
HEE-HEE!

Et —
WHAT ABOUT THE FOOD IN FRANCE? C'EST MAGNIFIQUE!
WOT?WE'RE TIRED!

ESCARGOT, MONSIEURS?
SNAILS???!?!? WE'RE NOT TOO TIRED TO RUN!
GANGWAY!
OO-ER!

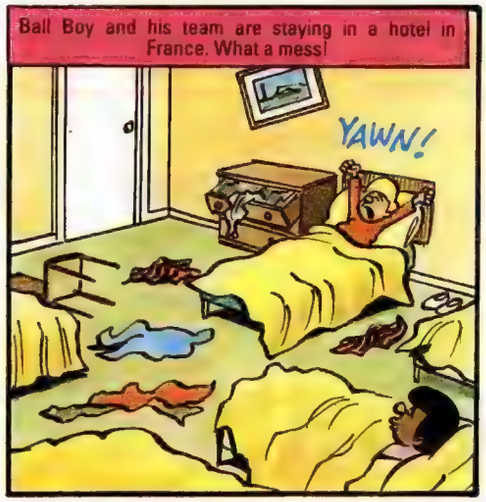
WHAT ABOUT THE SPORTS THE FRENCH PLAY?
WHAT SPORT IS THIS?

WHO KNOWS, BUT IT'S PLAYED WITH A BALL. MINE!
BOULE BOY! NON!

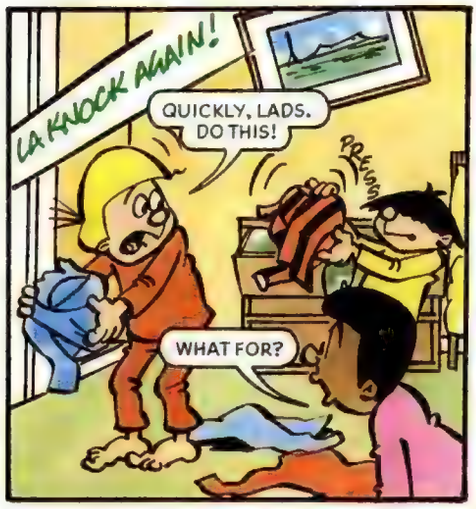
YEEOWSAH!
LE BONK!
LE OUCH!

THAT'S NICE, B.B., HAVING A REST?
JUST WHAT WE NEED!
LES CRAZY BRITS!
TWEET! TWEET!

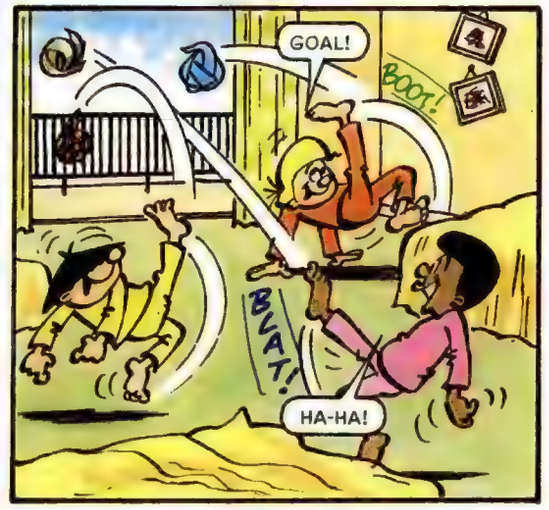
BALL BOY

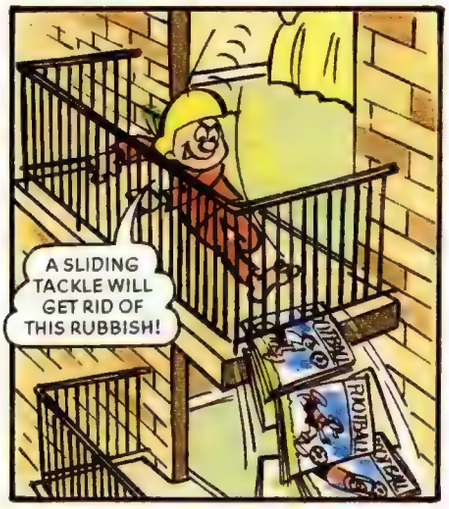

Ball Boy and his team are staying in a hotel in France. What a mess!
YAWN!

OH NO! THAT MUST BE THE MAID!
LA KNOCK!
NOW WE'RE IN TROUBLE! THE ROOM IS IN A TERRIBLE MESS.


LA KNOCK AGAIN!
QUICKLY, LADS. DO THIS!
WHAT FOR?

SO WE CAN USE OUR FOOTBALL SKILLS TO CLEAN UP!
KICK!
TAP!

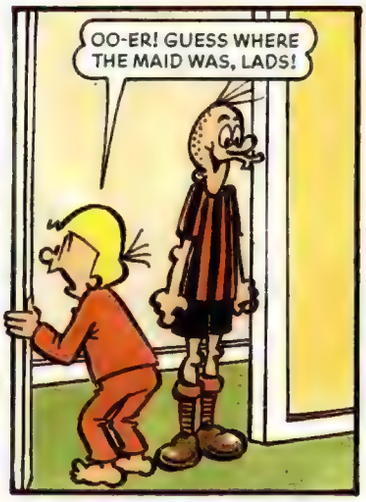

GOAL!
BOOT!
BUAT!
HA-HA!


A SLIDING TACKLE WILL GET RID OF THIS RUBBISH!

PHEW! NOW WE'RE TIDY AGAIN.
BOOP!
WE CAN LET THE MAID IN NOW.

But —
IT'S NOT THE MAID AT ALL — IT'S DIMMY!
WHY DID YOU KNOCK?

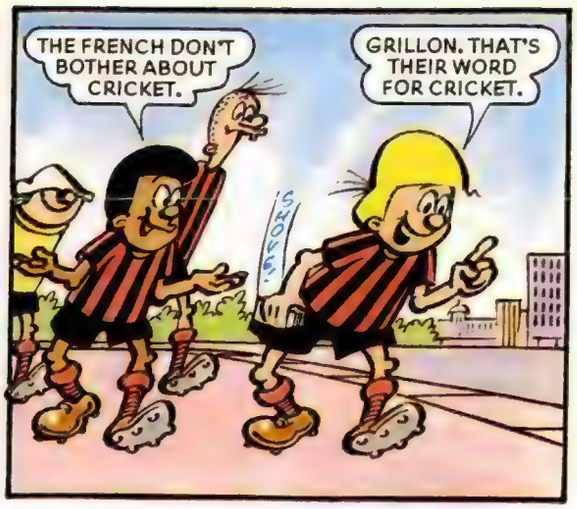
WELL I WENT FOR A STROLL. WHEN I CAME BACK I'D FORGOTTEN HOW TO USE THE DOOR HANDLE.
SHEESH!


OO-ER! GUESS WHERE THE MAID WAS, LADS!

COMING ALONG THE STREET BELOW! ULP!
OO 'AS BEEN NAUGHTY LEETLE BOYS THEN?

BALL BOY

Ball Boy and his team are in France for The World Cup!
FOUND IT, YET, B.B.?
GOTTIT! G-R-I-L-L-O-N. GRILLON.
ENGLISH FRENCH DICTIONARY

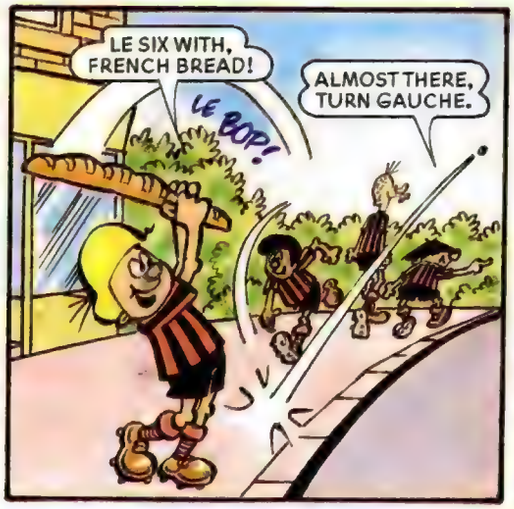

THE FRENCH DON'T BOTHER ABOUT CRICKET.
GRILLON. THAT'S THEIR WORD FOR CRICKET.
SHOVE!

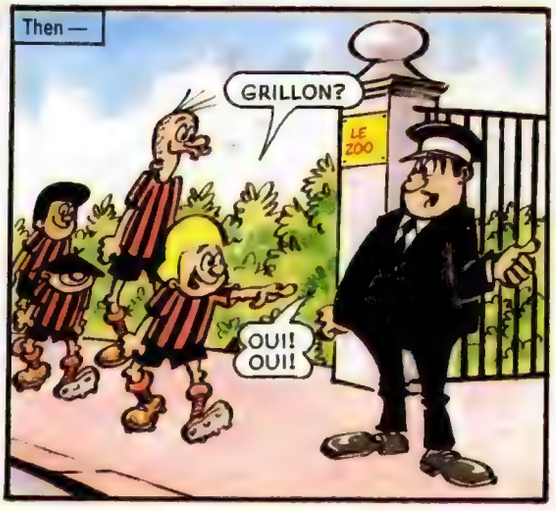
YEAH! IT'S THE THIRD TEST THIS WEEK. ENGLAND AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.
AND WE WANT TO FIND OUT THE SCORE.

So —
EXCUSE-MOI, MONSIEUR! OU EST LA GRILLON?
GALLIC
SHRUG

AH! A GAUCHE, A DROITE, A GAUCHE!
LEFT, RIGHT THEN LEFT!

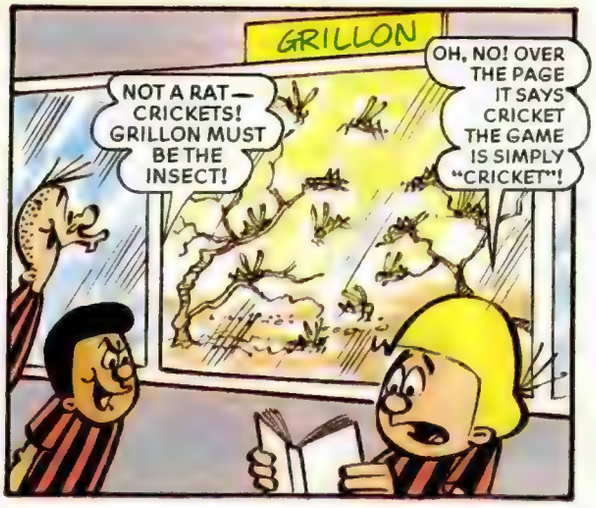
YOU'D THINK THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE CRICKET.
READY?


LE SIX WITH, FRENCH BREAD!
LE BOP!
ALMOST THERE, TURN GAUCHE.


Then —
GRILLON?
LE ZOO
OUI! OUI!

STRANGE PLACE TO FIND OUT A CRICKET SCORE!
GRILLON, REMEMBER!

GRILLONS!
MAISON DES INSECTS
AN INSECT HOUSE? I SMELL A RAT!


GRILLON
NOT A RAT— CRICKETS! GRILLON MUST BE THE INSECT!
OH, NO! OVER THE PAGE IT SAYS CRICKET THE GAME IS SIMPLY "CRICKET"!

BALL BOY

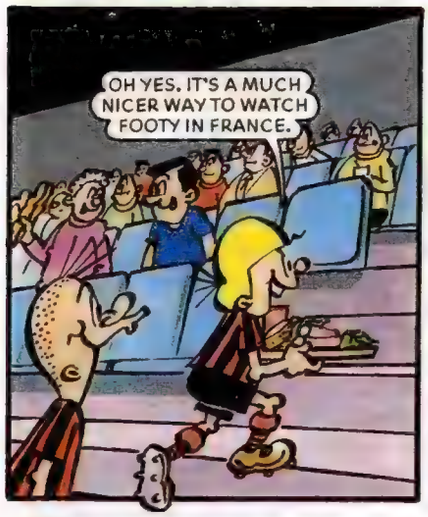
Welcome to France, where Ball Boy and his squad are at The World Cup!
THIS ISN'T LIKE BEING AT A BRITISH GAME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, B.B.?

FOR ONE THING, IT ISN'T GREASY PIES AND BOVRIL AT HALF-TIME.
LES SNACKS →

AH! BONJOUR, MONSIEURS!
SEE?

FRENCH CHEESES, BREAD AND HAM — MUCH BETTER.

HALF-TIME CHEERLEADERS? NOT HERE! COOL, HUH?
LA TUNEFUL MUSIC


OH YES. IT'S A MUCH NICER WAY TO WATCH FOOTY IN FRANCE.

NOW TO TUCK IN. BON APPETITE!

OH-OH! I THINK IT'S JUST THE SAME AS EVERYWHERE ELSE!
WHAT'S UP, B.B.?

IT IS! IT IS! OH, NO!

LUD!
WAAH!

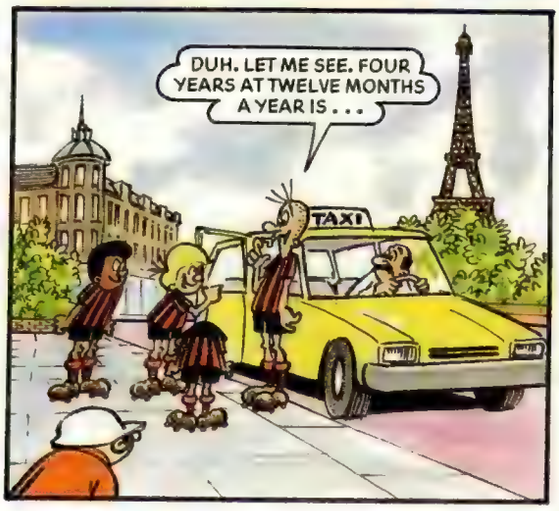
BAH! THE FRENCH HAVE 'MEXICAN WAVES' TOO! DOH! WHAT A MESS!
BETTER THAN WEARING A GREASY PIE.

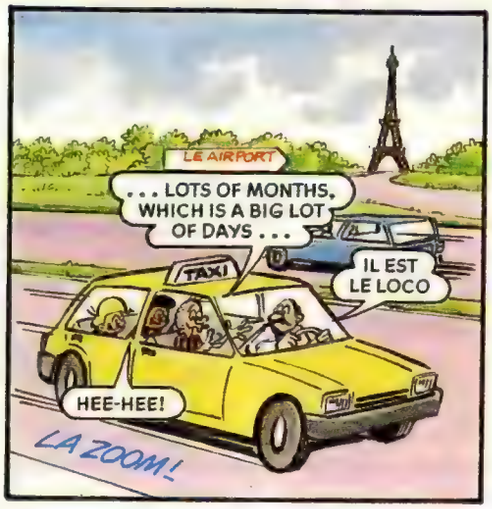
BALL BOY

Full-time at The World Cup Final. They think it's all over. Well, it is!
THAT'S THE WORLD CUP FINISHED! IT'S OVER! GONE! TIME TO GO HOME!
IT COMES ROUND EVERY FOUR YEARS, THOUGH, B.B.!

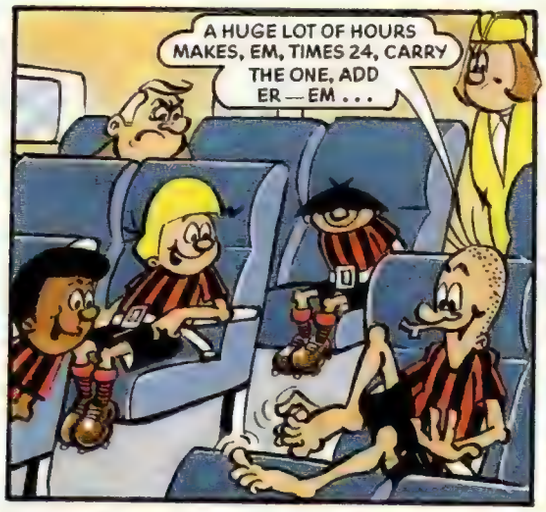
AU REVOIR TILL JAPAN 2002
YEAH! THE WORLD CUP IS IN JAPAN NEXT TIME.

2002! THAT'S FOUR YEARS AWAY. WHAT A LONG, LONG TIME!
HOW LONG EXACTLY?


DUH. LET ME SEE. FOUR YEARS AT TWELVE MONTHS A YEAR IS . . .
TAXI


LE AIRPORT
. . . LOTS OF MONTHS, WHICH IS A BIG LOT OF DAYS . . .
TAXI
IL EST LE LOCO
HEE-HEE!
LA ZOOM!

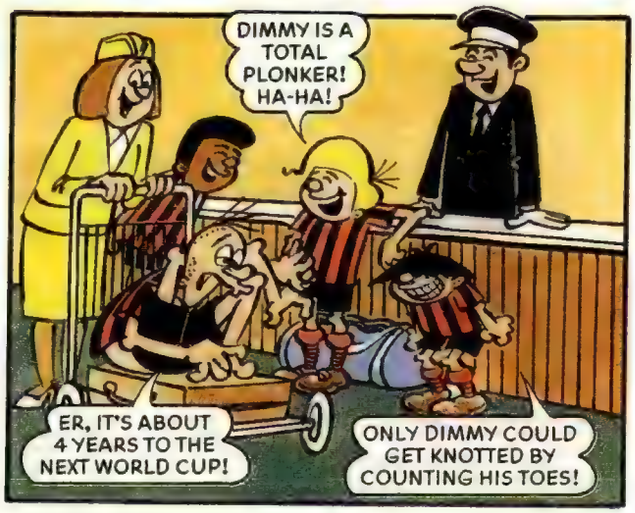
. . . A BIG LOT OF DAYS IS A HUGE LOT OF HOURS . . . I NEED MY TOES TO COUNT!


A HUGE LOT OF HOURS MAKES, EM, TIMES 24, CARRY THE ONE, ADD ER — EM . . .

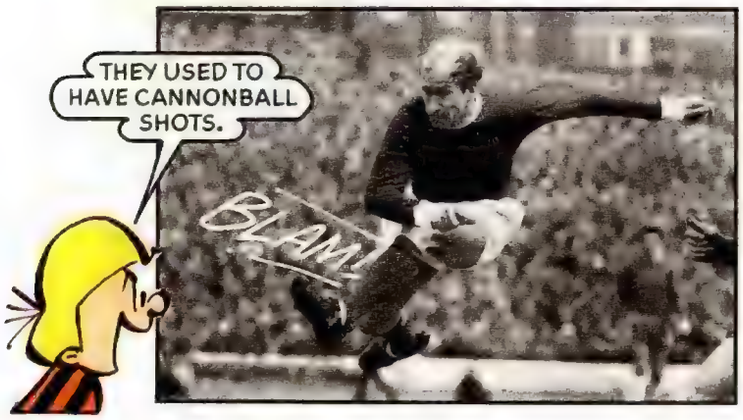
HA-HA!
. . . YEOW!
HO-HO!
HAW-HAW! UNBELIEVABLE!

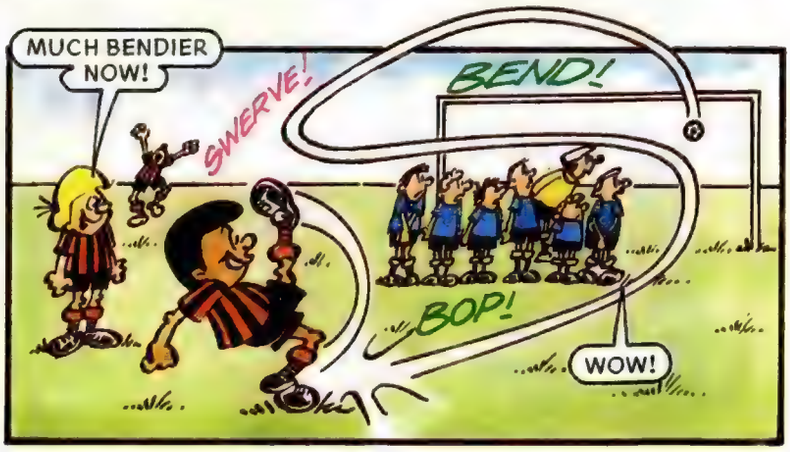
Back in Britain —
HEE-HEE-HEE! ONLY DIMMY COULD BE THAT DAFT!

Customs —
ANYTHING TO DECLARE?
YES!


DIMMY IS A TOTAL PLONKER! HA-HA!
ER, IT'S ABOUT 4 YEARS TO THE NEXT WORLD CUP!
ONLY DIMMY COULD GET KNOTTED BY COUNTING HIS TOES!

ASK YOUR DAD! OR GRANDAD! WHAT WAS FOOTBALL LIKE IN THE 1970'S?

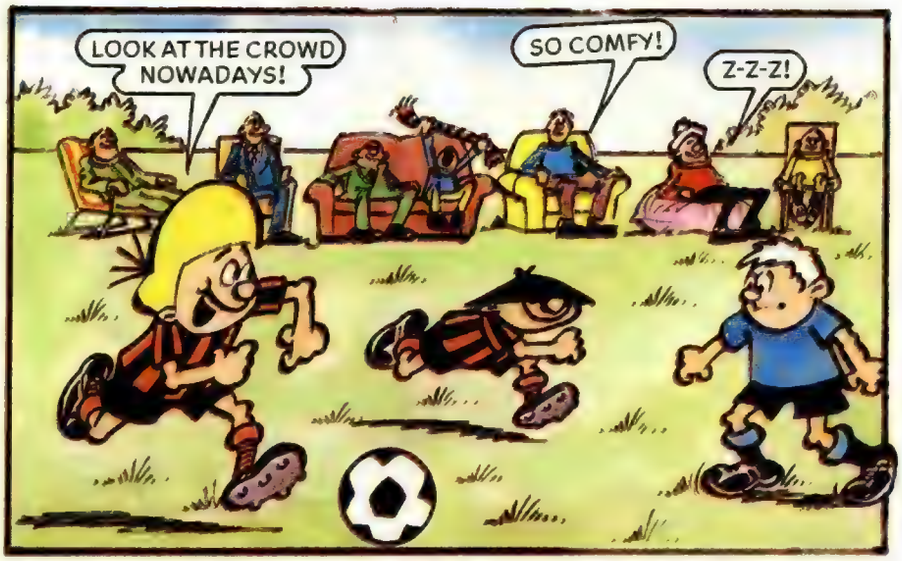




THEY DIDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THEIR HAIR THEN.

NOW IT'S ALL THEY WORRY ABOUT.
COMB!
OUT OF MY WAY!
LET ME SEE!
MY TURN WITH THE MIRROR!

AND THE CROWD HAD TO STAND!


LOOK AT THE CROWD NOWADAYS!
SO COMFY!
Z-Z-Z!

RUBBISH, WASN'T IT? AND ALL IN BLACK AND WHITE!

SPLASH!

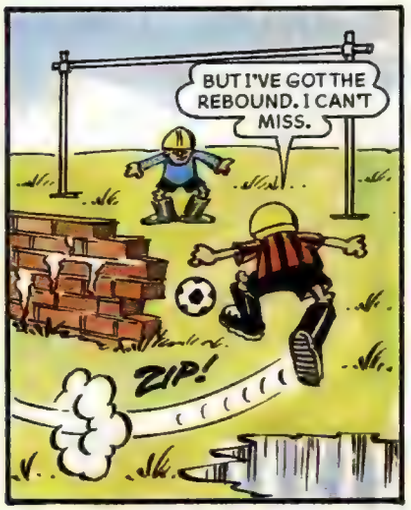
BUT MUCH BETTER THAN YOUR MODERN RUBBISH!
OO-ER! LOOKS LIKE WE ANNOYED OUR DADS!

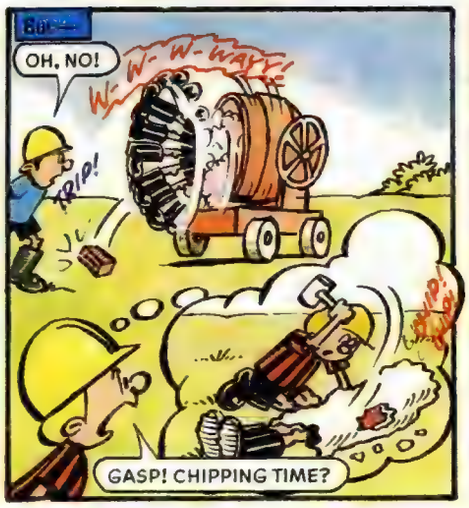
BALL BOY

BEANO'S 80 OK! just great...since '38!

SEE BALL BOY IN 'THE BIG MATCH' — FUN-SIZE BEANO NO. 25. ON SALE AUG. 11TH — 60P.

BALL BOY





BALL BOY

WE'LL PLAY FIVE-A-SIDE AT THE SPORTS CENTRE TODAY. EXTRA TRAINING FOR THE TEAM.
SPORTS CENTRE

FIVE-A-SIDE PITCHES
ICE HOCKEY
HEY, DIMMY! OUR PITCH IS THIS WAY.
TOO LATE, B.B.

HEH! LOOKS LIKE DIMMY'S SHOWING SOME DRIBBLING SKILLS. WHAT A MAZEY RUN, EH?
YOIPS!

YOURS, I BELIEVE.
CHEERS, MATE.
SHOVE!

On to the proper pitch, and on with the game — !
I'LL TAKE A REALLY LONG RUN-UP FOR THIS THROW-IN!
DON'T GO BACK TOO FAR, TITCH . . .

. . . THE POOL'S NEXT DOOR! I TRIED TO WARN YOU!
BLORSH!

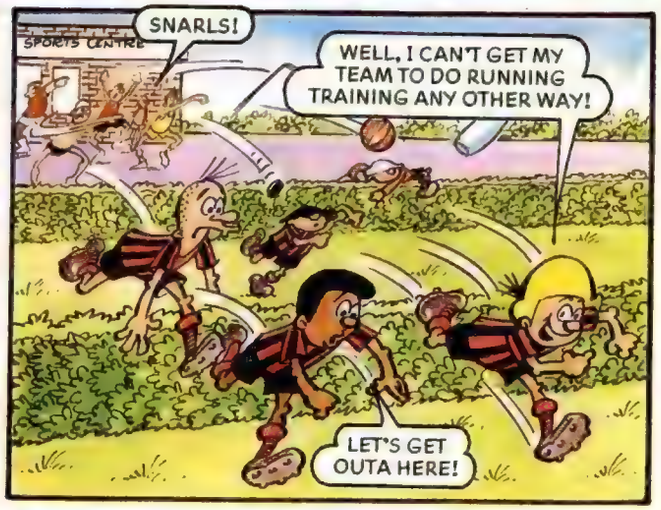
On with the game —
OOPS! A BIT TOO HIGH.
NO KIDDING!

And —
OOPS!
STAY ON YOUR OWN BIT!

KEEP YOUR SHOTS LOW — LIKE THIS.
I'LL GET IT!

But —
ERK! I'VE DIVED TOO FAR.
Ten-pin bowling alley on this side!

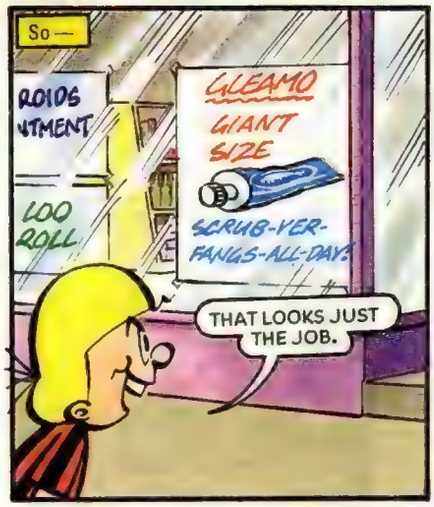
I'LL HAVE TO ADD THIS . . .
FIVE-A-SIDE
FOOTBALL
SWIMMING
BASKETBALL
TEN-PIN BOWLING
STEEPLECHASING


SNARLS!
SPORTS CENTRE
WELL, I CAN'T GET MY TEAM TO DO RUNNING TRAINING ANY OTHER WAY!
LET'S GET OUTA HERE!

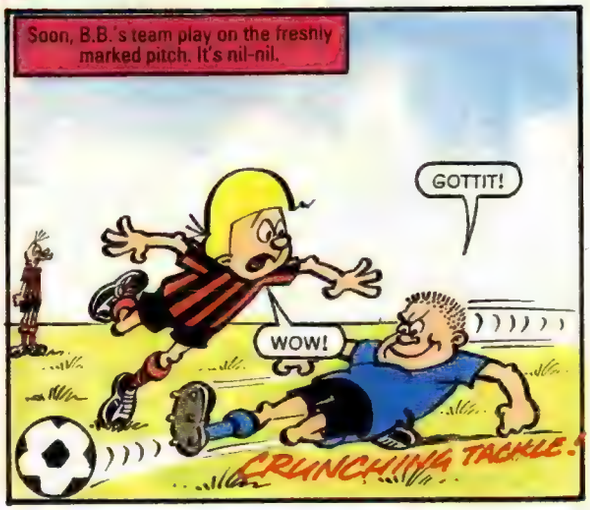
BALL BOY

I'M JUST MARKING OUT OUR PITCH!
SQUEAK! SQUEAK!

But —
OH, NO! THE PAINT HAS RUN OUT.


So —
ROIDS
NTMENT
LOO ROLL
GLEAMO GIANT SIZE
SCRUB-YER-FANGS-ALL-DAY!
THAT LOOKS JUST THE JOB.

CLEVER, HUH?
SQUEEZE


Soon, B.B.'s team play on the freshly marked pitch. It's nil-nil.
GOTTIT!
WOW!
CRUNCHING TACKLE!

Meet Max, the team mascot!
MMM! LOVELY MINTY PONG.

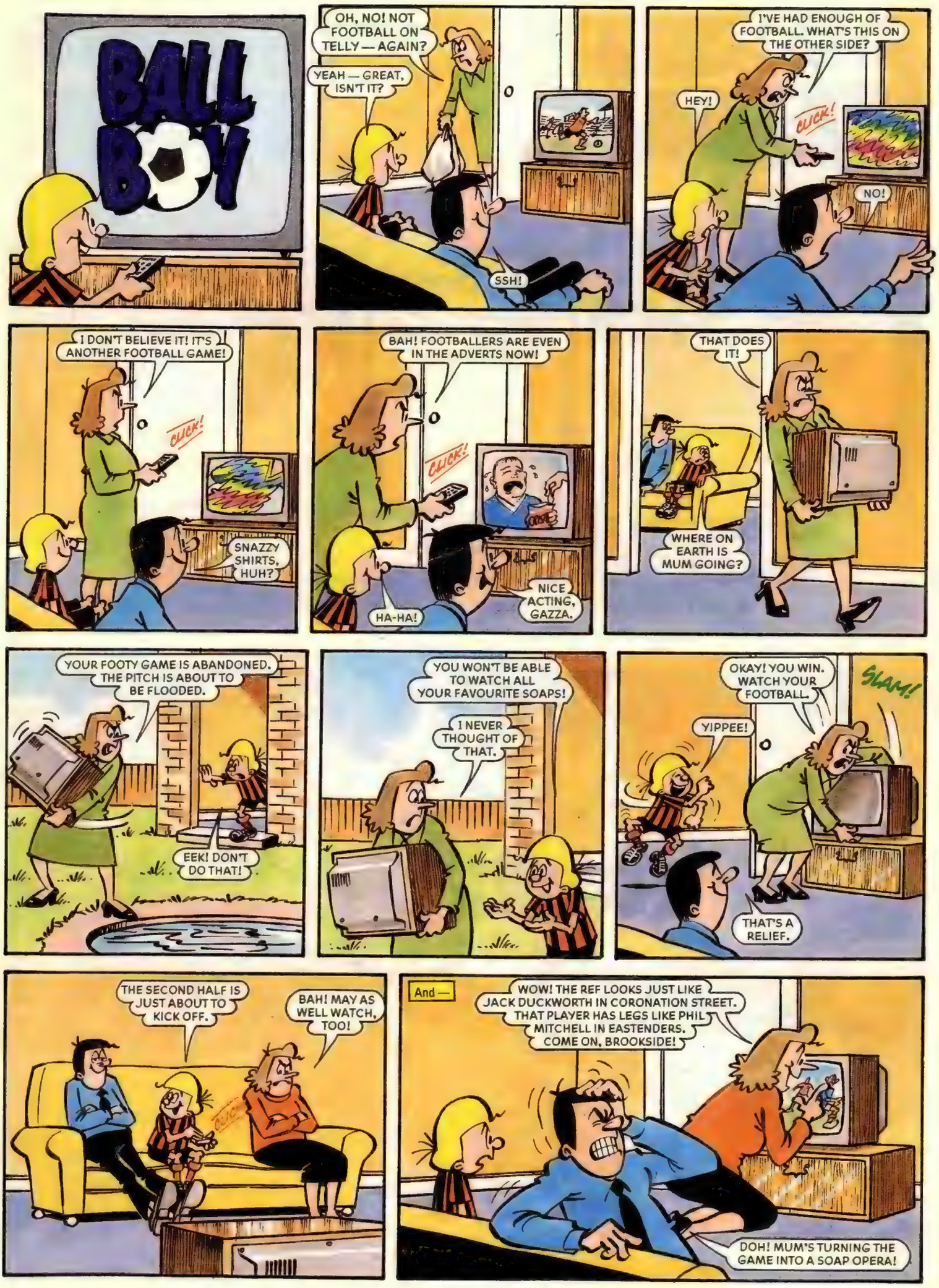
AND TASTE! OH, BOY!
SLURP!

MAX?
WAAAH! MAD DOG!
HE'S FOAMING AT THE GOB!
RUN FOR IT!
HELP!

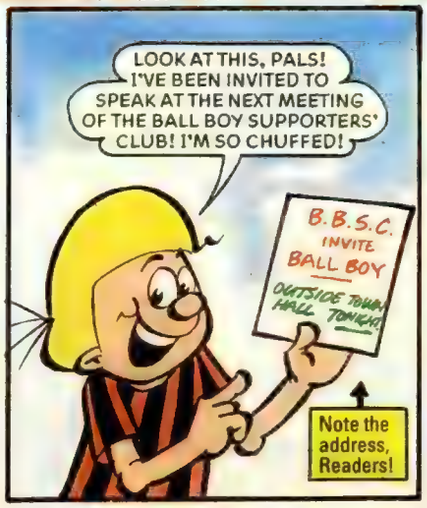
WAHEY! 1-0! WE WIN!
BOOT!

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MAX. HAVE A CHOCCY BONE!

WHAT? AND DIRTY MY GLEAMING TEETH? NO, TA!
GOSH!


BALL BOY
OH, NO! NOT FOOTBALL ON TELLY — AGAIN?
YEAH — GREAT, ISN'T IT?
SSH!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF FOOTBALL. WHAT'S THIS ON THE OTHER SIDE?
HEY!
CLICK!
NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! IT'S ANOTHER FOOTBALL GAME!
CLICK!
SNAZZY SHIRTS, HUH?
BAH! FOOTBALLERS ARE EVEN IN THE ADVERTS NOW!
CLICK!
HA-HA!
NICE ACTING, GAZZA.
THAT DOES IT!
WHERE ON EARTH IS MUM GOING?
YOUR FOOTY GAME IS ABANDONED. THE PITCH IS ABOUT TO BE FLOODED.
EEK! DON'T DO THAT!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WATCH ALL YOUR FAVOURITE SOAPS!
I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT.
OKAY! YOU WIN. WATCH YOUR FOOTBALL.
SLAM!
YIPPEE!
THAT'S A RELIEF.
THE SECOND HALF IS JUST ABOUT TO KICK OFF.
BAH! MAY AS WELL WATCH, TOO!
CLICK!
And —
WOW! THE REF LOOKS JUST LIKE JACK DUCKWORTH IN CORONATION STREET. THAT PLAYER HAS LEGS LIKE PHIL MITCHELL IN EASTENDERS. COME ON, BROOKSIDE!
DOH! MUM'S TURNING THE GAME INTO A SOAP OPERA!

BALL BOY


LOOK AT THIS, PALS! I'VE BEEN INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BALL BOY SUPPORTERS' CLUB! I'M SO CHUFFED!
B.B.S.C. INVITE BALL BOY
OUTSIDE TOWN HALL TONIGHT
Note the address, Readers!

I'D BETTER DRESS UP FOR MY FANS. THEY ALL LOVE ME, YOU KNOW. ALL OF 'EM!

WHAT WILL I TALK TO THE HUGE CROWD ABOUT? MY SKILL? MY TALENT?

On the way—
THE WAY I BROUGHT DOWN THE BALL AGAINST GASWORKS UNITED RESERVES?
THROW!
TRAP

AND SPUN MAGNIFICENTLY!
IN THE MUD, MATE? MIND YER SUIT.

OR ZOOMED THROUGH THE DEFENCE?
WALLY!

OR MY SUPERB GOAL CELEBRATION? FANTASTIC, HUH?

GREAT! NO WONDER I'VE GOT SO MANY FANS! THOUSANDS WILL BE THERE, I EXPECT! JUST TO SEE ME, THEIR HERO!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, PAL.
DUST!

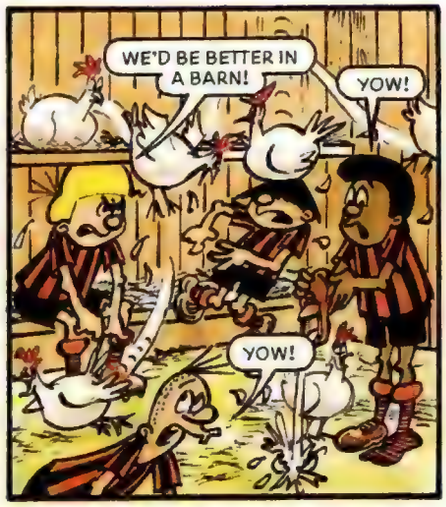
STRANGE! THE TOWN HALL SEEMS TO BE LOCKED.

HEY! B.B.! THE INVITE DID SAY 'OUTSIDE TOWN HALL'.
EH? WHAT?

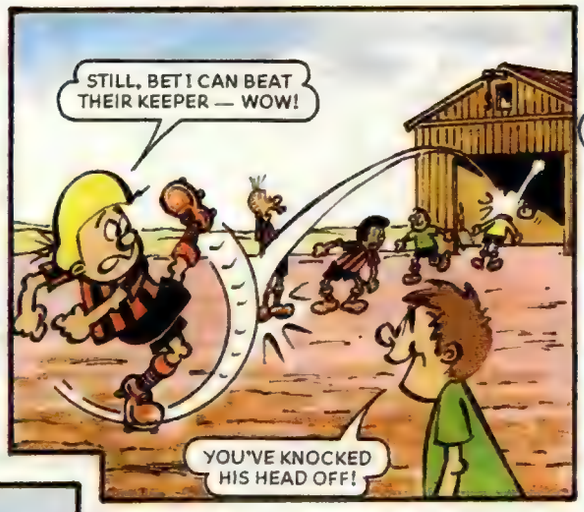
WELL, THIS PHONE BOX IS ALL THE B.B. SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEEDS FOR A MEETING! YOU DON'T HAVE MANY FANS.
G-G-GASP! I'M SPEECHLESS!
NOT MUCH OF A TALKER, ARE YOU?

BALL BOY

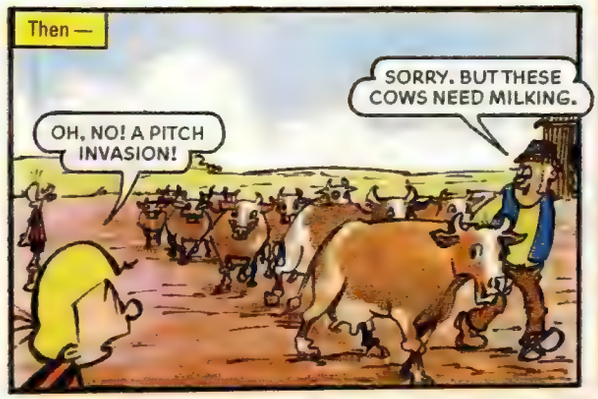
WE'RE PLAYING A TEAM OF FARM WORKERS TODAY!
AR! I'LL TAKE YOU TO YOUR DRESSING ROOM.


WE'D BE BETTER IN A BARN!
YOW!
YOW!

But —
THE BARNS ARE THE GOALS!
AND THERE'S NO GRASS ON THIS PITCH!


STILL, BET I CAN BEAT THEIR KEEPER — WOW!
YOU'VE KNOCKED HIS HEAD OFF!

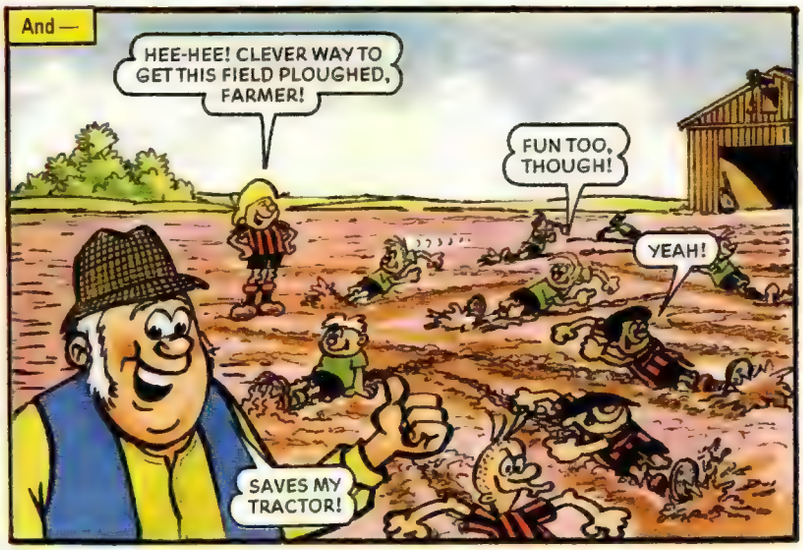
DON'T WORRY. OUR SCARECROW IS OUR GOALIE!
NICE SAVE, PAL!


Then —
SORRY, BUT THESE COWS NEED MILKING.
OH, NO! A PITCH INVASION!

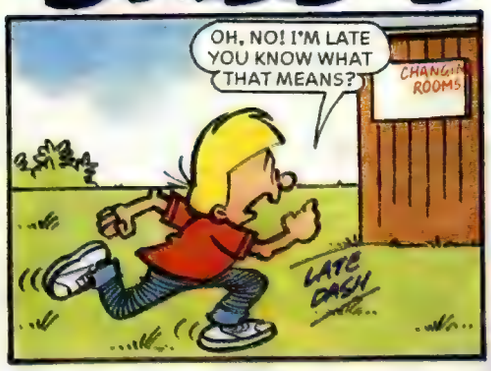
COR! BRILLIANT SLIDING TACKLE! HMM!
GOTTIT!

BET YOU LOT CAN'T ALL TACKLE LIKE THAT!
NO PROBLEM!
OH, YEAH?
COURSE WE CAN!
EASY!

JUNE'S JOKE CORNER
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SWORD SWALLOWER WHO WENT ON A DIET?
HE GOT PINS AND NEEDLES!
GULPO
John Ti, Sheffield, Yorks.


And —
HEE-HEE! CLEVER WAY TO GET THIS FIELD PLOUGHED, FARMER!
FUN TOO, THOUGH!
YEAH!
SAVES MY TRACTOR!

BALL BOY



YOU CAN STILL JOIN DENNIS'S FAN CLUB

To join The Dennis Fan Club, fill in the coupon and send it with a 55p cheque or Postal Order to: Dennis The Menace Fan Club, PO Box 66, Dundee DD1 9LN. You'll get two Fan Club badges, a membership card, club secrets and a wallet to keep it all in. Only UK and Eire readers can join. Sorry!

BEANO — DENNIS THE MENACE FAN CLUB

First name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

..... Postcode.....

Date of birth _ _ / _ _ / _ _

I ENCLOSE A 55p POSTAL ORDER

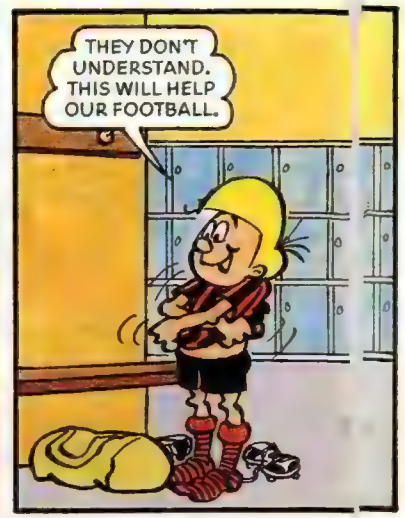
BALL BOY
Big Eggo's A Naughty Ostrich
LOOK, LADS! WE'VE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE A T.V. ADVERT!
WOW! FAME AT LAST!
GRR! B.B. HAS GOT ALL THE CRISPS IN TOWN!
WHAT'LL WE BE ADVERTISING?
CRISPS, MAYBE?
PERHAPS THE ENGLAND TEAMS LATEST SHIRT.
I HOPE NOT, TITCH.
HEY! IT'S GONE DARK!
HA-HA!
THEY DON'T MAKE THEM IN YOUR SIZE!
CHEEK!
A PIZZA ADVERT?
NO WAY, GOALIE!
OOPS!
SPLAT!
YOU'D DROP IT!
EH?
THE ADVERT SHOULD BE ABOUT PAPER HANKIES.
WHY, BENJY?
WE USE MORE HANKIES THAN GAZZA!
BOO-HOO! WE LOST AGAIN!
WELL, WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE ADVERT IS.
Studio
THIS WAY, LADS.
PHOO-TY TEA
WELL, THEY'RE CHEAPER TO HIRE THAN REAL MONKEYS! HA-HA!
BAH! WE'RE ADVERTISING TEA IN MONKEY SUITS!
FIRST TIME BALL BOY HAS HAD HIS HANDS ON A CUP! HAW-HAW!

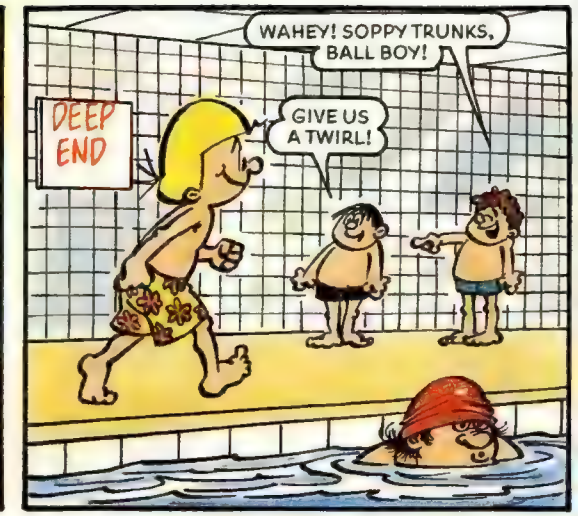
BALL BOY
HOW LONG TO HALF-TIME?
YEAH. HOW LONG?
CAN'T BE FAR OFF.
JUST A FEW SECONDS, LADS.
BLOOTER!
LONG ENOUGH TO LOSE A GOAL!
PEEP!
HALF-TIME!
7-0 AND IT'S ONLY HALF-TIME! WE'RE GUBBING YOU!
WHO CARES?
YOU'RE GETTING BEATEN 7-0 AT HALF-TIME? BY GUYS IN BOOTS LIKE THAT??? A TEAM OF CLOWNS?
YUP!
YOU SEE, WE DIDN'T WANT TO RUN ABOUT AND GET TIRED. WE'D HAVE HAD TO GO TO THE DRESSING ROOM FOR A REST.
YEAH! WE DON'T WANT TO MISS THE FUN.
WHAT FUN?
WELL, WHEN YOU PLAY A TEAM OF CLOWNS . . .
UH?
BOOM!
COME ON YOU CLOWNS!
PIES AND BOVRIL
. . . THEIR CIRCUS PALS COME ALONG TO PUT ON A SHOW! HA-HA!

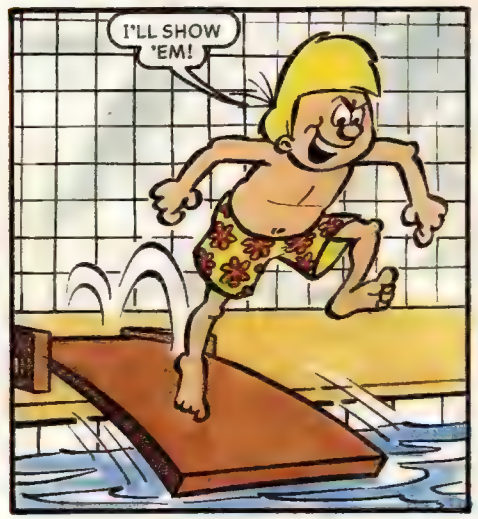
BALL BOY

IT'S FOOTBALL TRAINING TIME, BALL BOY!
NO, TA, LADS. I'M OFF FOR A SWIM!

WOT? THAT'S WIMPY!
SAP!
WE'LL SEE!

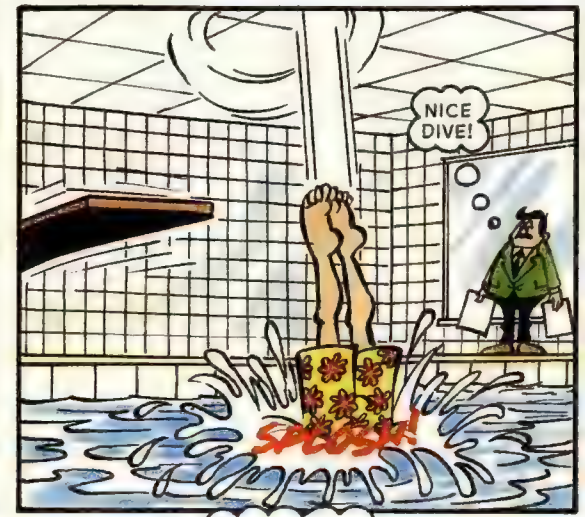

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND. THIS WILL HELP OUR FOOTBALL.

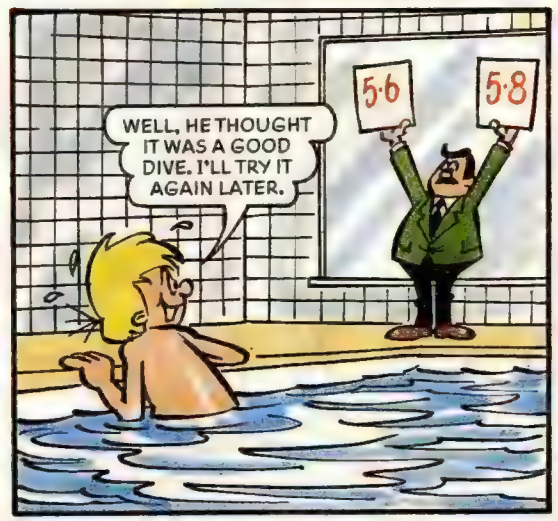

DEEP END
WAHEY! SOPPY TRUNKS, BALL BOY!
GIVE US A TWIRL!


I'LL SHOW 'EM!

GOOD FOOTY PRACTICE, THIS IS.
LEAP!

OW! REFEREE!


NICE DIVE!
SPLOSH!


WELL, HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD DIVE. I'LL TRY IT AGAIN LATER.
5·6
5·8

Next matchday —
ENJOY YOUR SWIM, WIMP?
WATER WASN'T TOO HOT FOR YOUR LITTLE TOOTSIES?
WEAR A BATHING CAP, DID YOU?

89 minutes gone, it's 0-0.
RIGHT, I'LL SHOW 'EM!

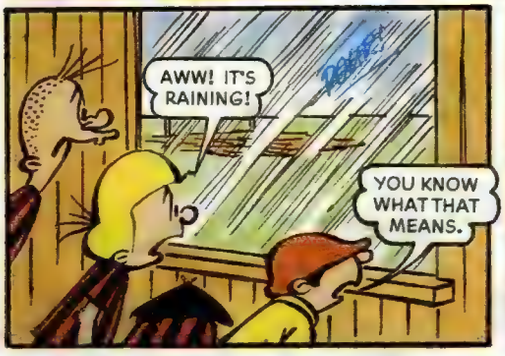
THIS DIVE WILL WIN US A LAST MINUTE PENALTY!
WHERE'S HE GOING?
LEAP!

OW! REFEREE!
THAT MUST BE A PENALTY, REF!
CRUMP!

5.6? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
5·6
GROAN! I KNOW!

IT MEANS THE REF WAS ALSO A DIVING JUDGE! I'M OFF FOR A SWIM AGAIN — OR AN EARLY BATH!
CHEAT! SERVES YOU RIGHT!

BALL BOY


AWW! IT'S RAINING!
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

OH, YES! I KNOW.
NNGH!
RAM!

A MUD BATH FOR YOU, GOALIE!
YUK! I HATE IT WHEN IT'S BEEN RAINING!
SPLAT!

SO — I'M NOT PLAYING! NO WAY!
BUT IT'S KICK-OFF TIME!

NOPE! THIS IS A BRAND NEW JERSEY. I'M NOT DIVING IN THAT MUD!
GOAL!
WAH! THIS IS NO USE!

45 minutes later —
I'LL CALL US ANOTHER KEEPER!
HURRY UP! THE SECOND HALF STARTS SOON.

And —
YOU WANTED A NEW KEEPER, BALL BOY?
JUST IN TIME!
HIM! REPLACE ME? HA!

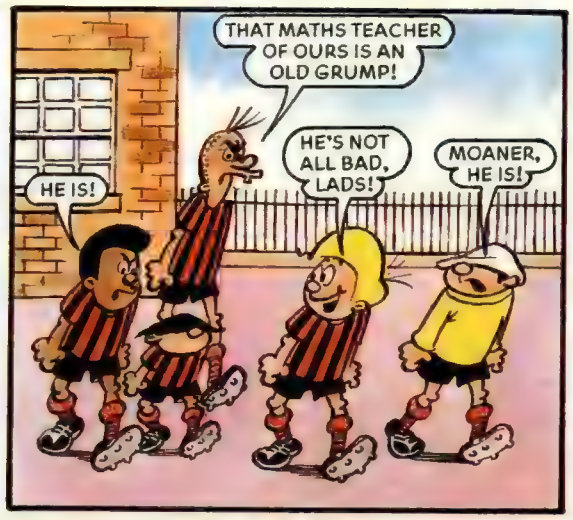
ANYWAY! HE'S NOT A GOAL KEEPER — HE'S A ZOO KEEPER!
YES! IT'S HIS PAL WE'RE AFTER!

HERE HE COMES!
TRUNDLE!
WOW!
MUD! LOVELY!

JUDE'S JOKE CORNER
WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A SNAIL WITH A STEAM TRAIN?
A SLOW-COMOTIVE!
Sam Butsfield, Ormskirk, Lancashire.

WHAT A SAVE!
SPLAT!
GLUB!
HE'S A GOOD 'KEEPER — BUT OUR LAUNDRY BILLS WILL BE HUGE!
GOT IT!

BALL BOY


THAT MATHS TEACHER OF OURS IS AN OLD GRUMP!
HE'S NOT ALL BAD, LADS!
MOANER, HE IS!
HE IS!

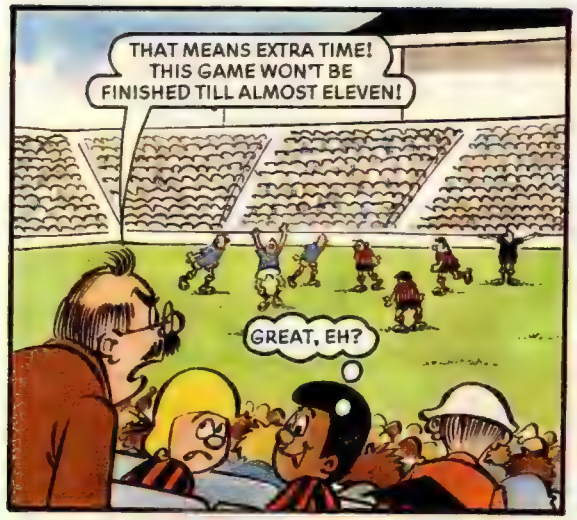
HE IS TAKING US TO THE BIG GAME TONIGHT!
HURRY UP, BOYS! MOVE IT!
ONLY BECAUSE THE HEAD MADE HIM!

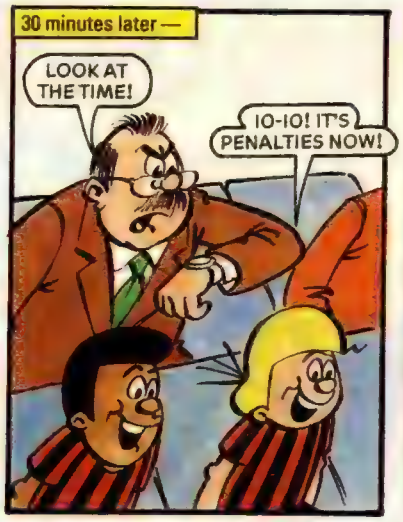
TUT-TUT! THIS GAME IS MILES AWAY!
GREAT!
BEANOTOWN MILES BACK THAT WAY
VROOM

AND IT'LL TAKE AGES TO GET IN WITH THESE QUEUES! MOAN!
IT'LL BE WORTH IT!

BAH! IT'S AN AWFUL GAME! FOOTBALL WAS BETTER IN MY DAY!
MOAN! MOAN! IT'S ALL HE DOES!

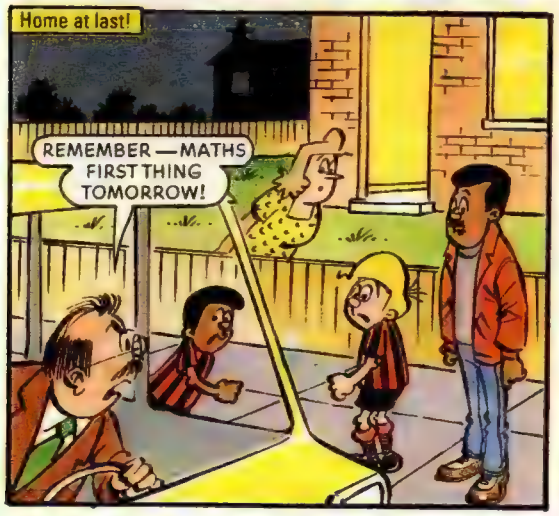
90 minutes —
6-6! WOW! WHAT A GAME THAT WAS!
OH, NO!
WHAT NOW?


THAT MEANS EXTRA TIME! THIS GAME WON'T BE FINISHED TILL ALMOST ELEVEN!
GREAT, EH?

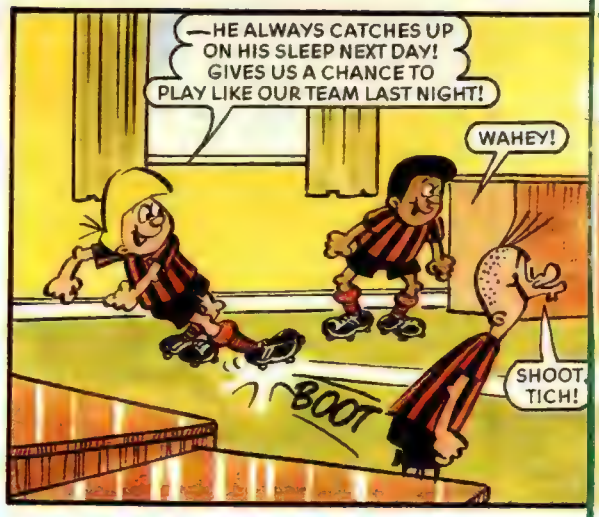

30 minutes later —
LOOK AT THE TIME!
10-10! IT'S PENALTIES NOW!

Sudden death penalties later —
WAHEY! WE WON! 13-12 ON PENALTIES! WHAT A MATCH!
BUT WHY DID IT TAKE SO LONG! MUMP! MOAN!

NOW IT'S REALLY, REALLY LATE! IT'S NOT ON, YOU KNOW!
BRMM!


Home at last!
REMEMBER — MATHS FIRST THING TOMORROW!

Next day —
WELL HE MOANED NON-STOP LAST NIGHT!
YEAH, BUT —

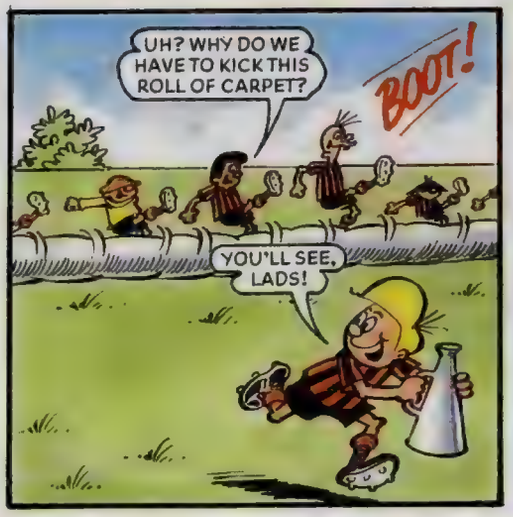

— HE ALWAYS CATCHES UP ON HIS SLEEP NEXT DAY! GIVES US A CHANCE TO PLAY LIKE OUR TEAM LAST NIGHT!
WAHEY!
BOOT
SHOOT, TICH!

ZZZZ

BALL BOY

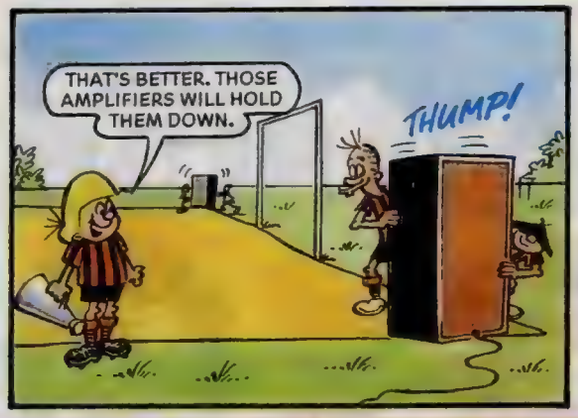
I'VE GOT THE PITCH IN PERFECT CONDITION, BALL BOY!
NO WAY, THE SURFACE IS ALL WRONG!

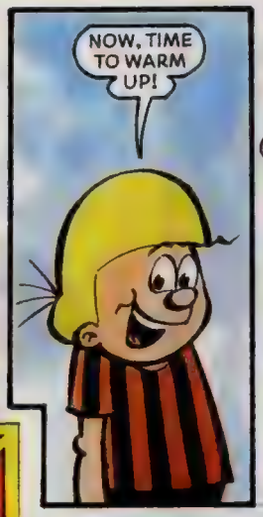
So —
SHOOTING PRACTICE, TEAM! RIGHT FEET FIRST!
GREAT!


UH? WHY DO WE HAVE TO KICK THIS ROLL OF CARPET?
BOOT!
YOU'LL SEE, LADS!

GREAT. THAT'S THE PITCH COVERED.

FLAP!
TICH AND BENJY! YOU'RE NO USE AT CORNERS!
EH?


THAT'S BETTER. THOSE AMPLIFIERS WILL HOLD THEM DOWN.
THUMP!


NOW, TIME TO WARM UP!

ME — ME — ME!
AH-AHHHH!
DOH!
RAY!
FUNNY WAY TO WARM UP FOR FOOTY!
IT'S NOT FOR FOOTBALL!

JOKE CORNER
WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE SUBMARINE SERVICE?
I ALWAYS SLEEP WITH THE WINDOWS OPEN!
Mark Stuart, Co. Waterford, Eire.

BOOM!
CRASH!
WE WERE GETTING READY FOR AN OPEN AIR ROCK CONCERT — LIKE ALL THE BEST STADIUMS!
WAAA!
ER, WELL . . .
HIT IT, LADS!

BALL BOY

12-0! ANOTHER THUMPING! THE SHAME OF IT! WE NEED NEW IDEAS!
BEFORE OUR NEXT GAME!

ALL THE BIG TEAMS HAVE FOREIGN PLAYERS — BERGKAMP, STAM, SCHMEICHEL — WHAT ABOUT US?
GREAT IDEA, BENJY!

A DUTCHMAN? A DANE? A FRENCHMAN? OR AN ITALIAN?
HEY! A SWEDE!

So —
WANNA GAME?
NO!
NO!
NO!

Next game —
NO LUCK, LADS. I COULDN'T SIGN A FOREIGN PLAYER.
I GOT A SWEDE!

DIMMY! THAT SWEDE IS A TURNIP! YOU MAKE SOUP WITH IT!
OH!
GRAB!

IT'S USELESS!
TOSS!

BOP!
WOT?
GOAL! TO US!!!
OH, NO! THE SHAME!

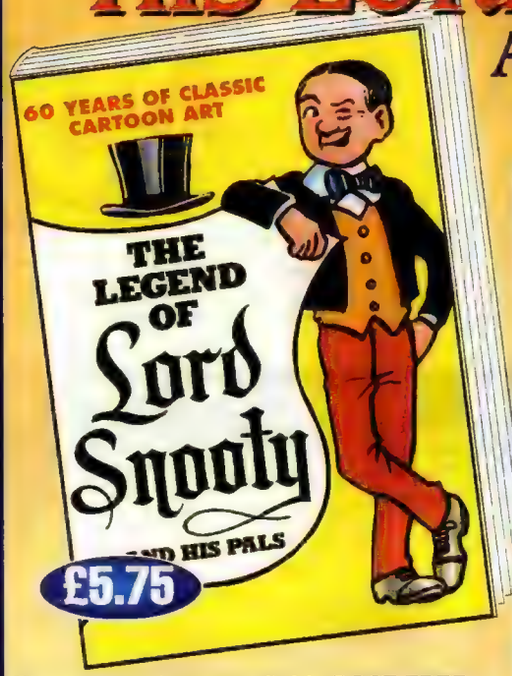
JUNIOR JOKE CORNER
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M WRITING MYSELF A LETTER.
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
I WON'T KNOW UNTIL I GET IT TOMORROW!
Oisin Rowlstone, Co. Donegal.

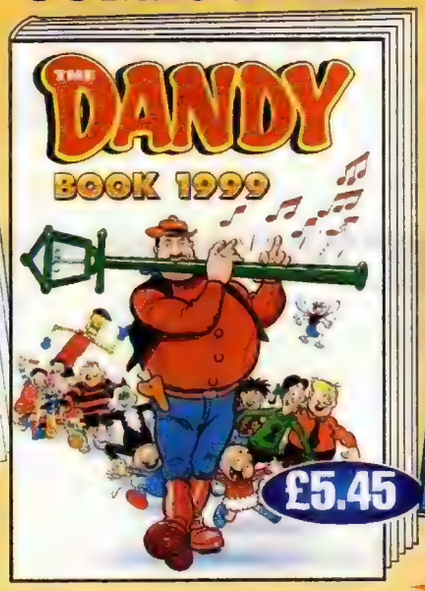
1-0! 1-0! 1-0!
OUR TOP SCORER IS A VEGETABLE! DOH!

BEANO: Blanket Eardrops Above Norma's Orbit!

HIS LORDSHIP AND PALS

AND ALL *YOUR* COMIC PALS!





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BALL BOY

OO! THE PAIN! AGONY! I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY FOR MONTHS, BALL BOY!
I KNOW WHO'LL CURE YOU, BENJY.
THROB

OUR NEW TRAINER — OLIVE, THE BASH STREET COOK!
I'LL RUB GREASE FROM MY OVEN INTO YOUR KNEE!

HEE-HEE!
ER, I'M CURED! NO PROBLEM!
LEAP!

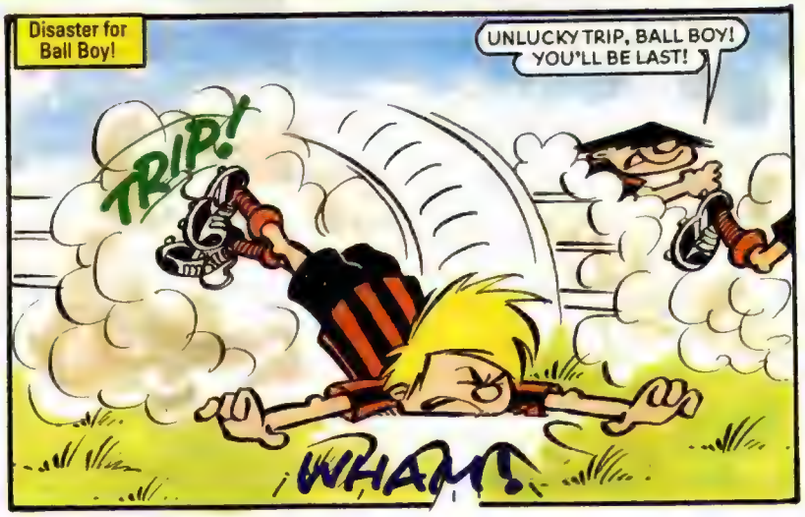
At training —
DIMMY'S HIT THE POST AGAIN!
TRAINER!
BLAT!

MY LOVELY PILCHARD AND GARLIC STEW WILL REVIVE HIM.
DUH!

ARSENAL PLAY AT HIGHBURY! LIVERPOOL AT ANFIELD!
WOW! IT'S SO DISGUSTING, IT'S SHOCKED DIMMY CLEVER!

Later —
OLIVE'S SCHOOL DINNER WILL MAKE US ALL QUICKER RUNNERS.
HOW, BALL BOY?
CABBAGE CURR
BOILED GHERKINS
STEWED SEA WEED

ZOOM!
LAST PLAYER TO RUN ROUND THE PITCH HAS TO EAT ALL OF IT!
NO, TA!
YUK!
UH? I MUST BE LOSING MY WHIZZ SPEED.


Disaster for Ball Boy!
UNLUCKY TRIP, BALL BOY! YOU'LL BE LAST!
TRIP!
WHAM!

BALL BOY

BEA IS A SPECIAL GUEST AT OUR MATCH TODAY! WITH HER MUM AND DAD!
GNASHER, TOO!

Kick off —
THEY'RE VERY WELCOME!

'COS THEY'RE RATTLING GOOD SUPPORTERS! HA-HA!
C'MON B.B.!

BLAST
EVEN WHEN WE GO 1-0 DOWN THEY'RE GOOD SUPPORTERS.

WAAH! 1-0! WAAH!
SEE? EVEN THEIR DOLLIES CRY!
BOO-HOO-HOO!
SOB! WAIL!

BUT WHEN WE WIN . . .
BLOOTER!
GOAL! HAT-TRICK TO BALL BOY! WE WIN 3-1!

WAHEY! YIPPEE!
LEAP
. . . BEA GETS SO EXCITED!

OH, DEAR! AHEM! MUM! I'VE ER, WELL, YOU KNOW!
IT'S A PITY SHE GETS TO CHOOSE THE MAN OF THE MATCH.
DESPERATE DANCE!

JUDE'S JOKE CORNER
WHAT BREAD RAN IN THE OLYMPICS?
LINFORD CRUSTY!
Jimmy Littley, Aldrington.

SLOSH
WELL, BEA'S POTTY ISN'T THE BEST TROPHY TO GET, IS IT? OO-ER!
NOT AFTER SHE'S USED IT! HO-HO!

BALL BOY

ALL OUR FANS HAVE GONE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!
NO FANS TO SING!

IT'S NOT THE SAME WITHOUT THE USUAL SINGING AND CHEERING!

WELL, IF THE FANS WON'T COME TO US, WE'LL GO TO THEM!
THE SHOPPING MALL!

WE'LL SHOW THE SHOPPING FANS WHAT THEY'RE MISSING!
I'VE GOT IT!
PASS!

WHAT SKILL!
WHAT A PLAYER!
TO ME, BENJY! ON MY HEAD!

VOLLEY!
I GOTTIT! I GOTTIT! I GOTTIT!
DIMMY! WATCH OUT FOR . . .

. . . THE FOUNTAIN! OH, DEAR!
HEY! WATCH IT!
YIKES!
BOP!
I'LL SHOW THEM HOW IT'S DONE.
SPLASH

JUST GOALIE TO BEAT!
WAIT FOR IT!

SANTA'S GROTTO
GOALIE'S DEFENCE IS LIKE AN IRON CURTAIN. HA-HA!
CRUNCH!
WELL, LIKE A SHOP'S STEEL SHUTTER!

BAH! THERE'S TOO MUCH SINGING NOW!

♫ YOU'RE SO BAD ♫ IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
DECK THE HALLS WITH SPRIGS OF HOLLY — BALL BOY IS A TOTAL WALLY!
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL CAROL! HO-HO!
GROTTO!
WHEN THEY MOCK YOU — YOU'RE BAD!

BALL BOY

Christmas Eve —
WE'RE PLAYING OUR CHRISTMAS EVE GAME AWAY TO A VILLAGE TEAM.
WE JUST MADE IT THROUGH THE SNOW.

Soon —
WOW! THIS SNOW STORM IS GETTING WORSE!
WE'LL HAVE TO RESCUE TITCH — WHEREVER HE IS!
DOWN HERE! HELP!

IT'S NO USE — MATCH ABANDONED!
PEEP!
GOOD! WE'RE TURNING INTO SNOWMEN!

Then —
AW, NO! ALL BUSES ARE CANCELLED. WE CAN'T GET HOME!
BUS STATIO
ALL BUSES CANCELLED
ALL THE ROADS MUST BE BLOCKED!

WE'LL HAVE TO STAY HERE TONIGHT. IT'S THE ONLY HOTEL IN THE VILLAGE.
HOTEL DE CHEAP

SORRY, LADS! WE'RE FULLY BOOKED! THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO STAY!
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
ZZZ
OH, NO! WHAT NOW?

SIMPLE — WE'LL BUILD AN IGLOO TO STAY IN.
IGLOOS DON'T HAVE WINDOWS, DIMMY!

Much building later —
YAWN! THAT WAS HARD WORK! GOODNIGHT, TEAM!
ZZZ
ZZZ

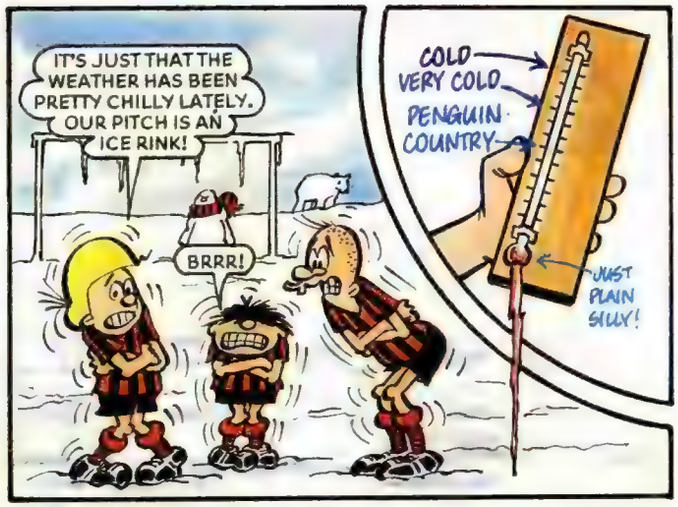
Christmas morning —
WAHEY! CLEVER SANTA HAS BROUGHT ALL OUR PRESSIES HERE!
JUST AS WELL WE PUT A CHIMNEY ON THE IGLOO!

EVEN BETTER! WE ALL GOT SKI-ING GEAR!
COOL!

YIPPEE! WE'LL BE HOME IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!
ZIP!

BALL BOY

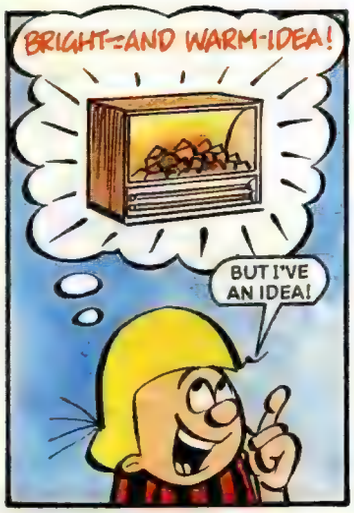
NO, PALS. I HAVEN'T TAKEN UP SKATING!
ZIP


IT'S JUST THAT THE WEATHER HAS BEEN PRETTY CHILLY LATELY. OUR PITCH IS AN ICE RINK!
BRRR!
COLD
VERY COLD
PENGUIN COUNTRY
JUST PLAIN SILLY!

THIS COLD WEATHER GIVES US THE BLUES!
C-C-C-C -C-C-C- C-COLD!

WE'VE TRIED HOT WATER BOTTLES.
THEY TURNED TO ICED WATER BOTTLES.
CLANK! CLANK!

EVEN LIGHTING A FIRE — BUT NOTHING HAS WARMED US.
A SUDDEN COLD SNAP?
SNAP

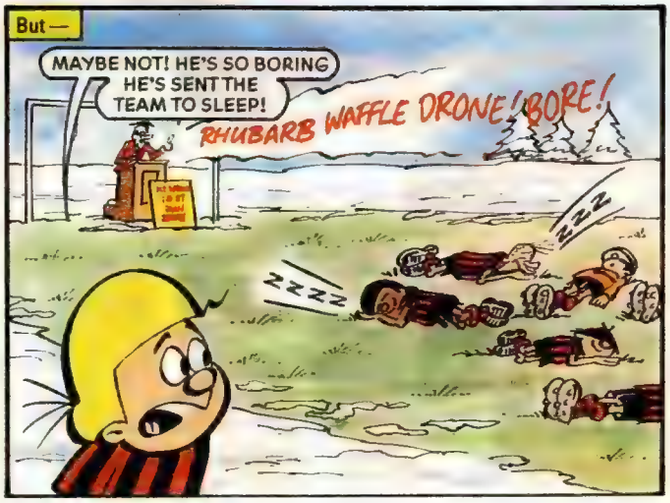

BRIGHT—AND WARM-IDEA!
BUT I'VE AN IDEA!

Later —
I KNOW WHAT WILL MELT ALL THE ICE.
SUN LAMPS?

NO — TEACHER!
UH? HOW CAN HE HELP?

Wait for it!
I'M SO GLAD TO BE HERE TO GIVE YOU THIS TALK! DRONE! WAFFLE! AREN'T I INTERESTING? GIBBER! ON AND ON AND ON!
MY AMAZING LIFE AT BASH STREET

Much later —
WAFFLE
HIS HOT AIR HAS MELTED THE SNOW. WE CAN PLAY NOW.

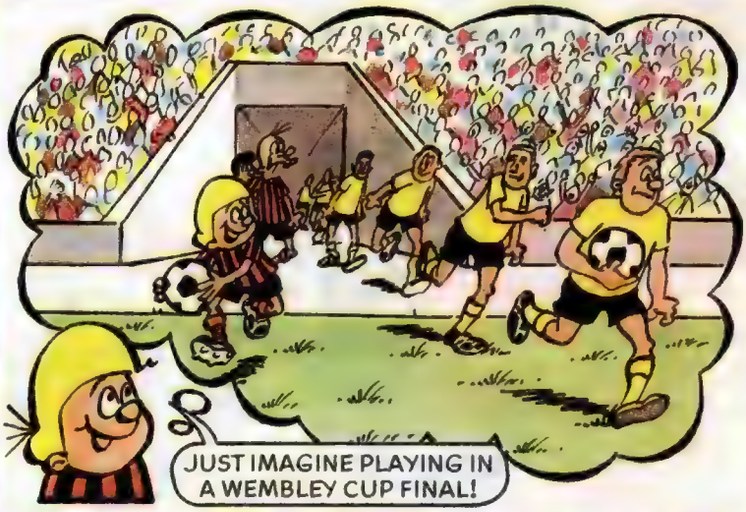

But —
MAYBE NOT! HE'S SO BORING HE'S SENT THE TEAM TO SLEEP!
RHUBARB WAFFLE DRONE! BORE!
ZZZ
ZZZZ

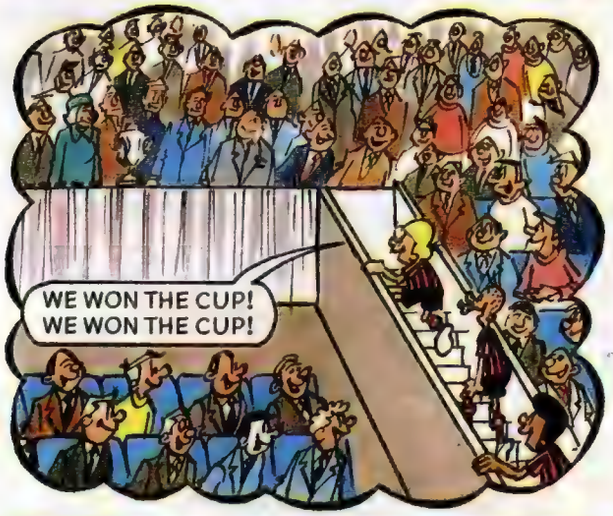
BALL BOY

Ball Boy's team are away from home —
THIS PITCH IS AWFUL! IT'S JUST MUD!
I KNOW! WHAT A TIP! IT'S HARDLY WEMBLEY!

WEMBLEY? MY UNCLE WORKS AT WEMBLEY!

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY!
YET ANOTHER GOAL!


JUST IMAGINE PLAYING IN A WEMBLEY CUP FINAL!


WE WON THE CUP! WE WON THE CUP!

TA, YOUR MAJ!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO THIS!

Soon —
WELL, THERE IT IS! WEMBLEY STADIUM! WE'RE HERE AT LAST!
YEAH! THE TWIN TOWERS! THE FAMOUS PITCH!

IT'S MY UNCLE!
SO YOU WANT TO SEE WEMBLEY? WELL, GRAB A SHOVEL!
EH? WE MUST BE REPAIRING THE PITCH!

TA FOR THE BALL!

WEMBLEY? THE THEATRE OF DREAMS? THE HOME OF FOOTBALL? FANTASTIC!
GOAL!
MAYBE HE CAN GET US IN!

IT'D BE GREAT TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY!
YEAH. COOL!
ANOTHER GOAL!
I'LL SEE WHAT HE CAN DO!

WHAT A CROWD!

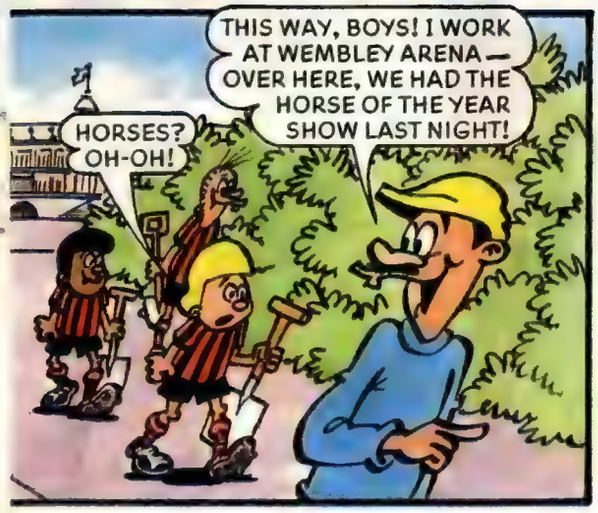
THIS IS A PERFECT PITCH —

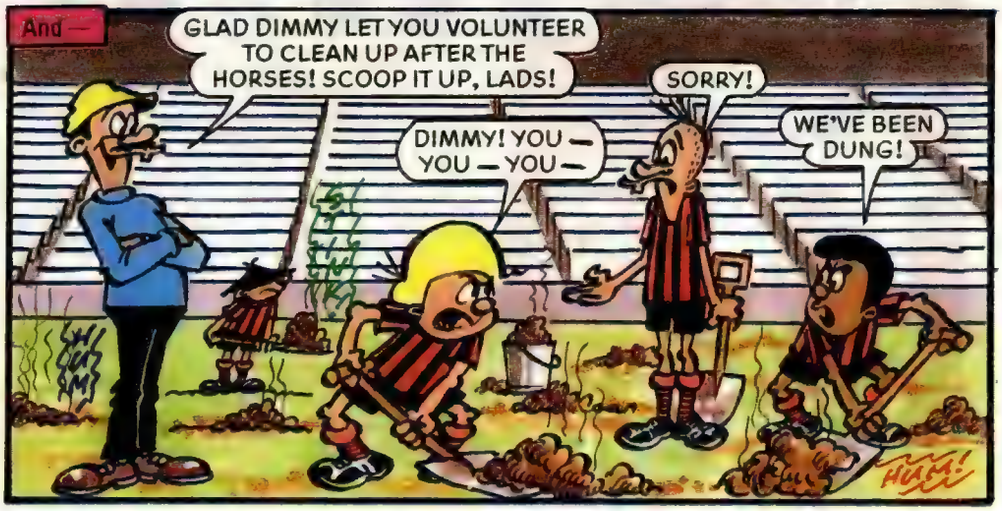
— TO SEND IN GREAT CROSSES!
TA, BENJY! GOAL!

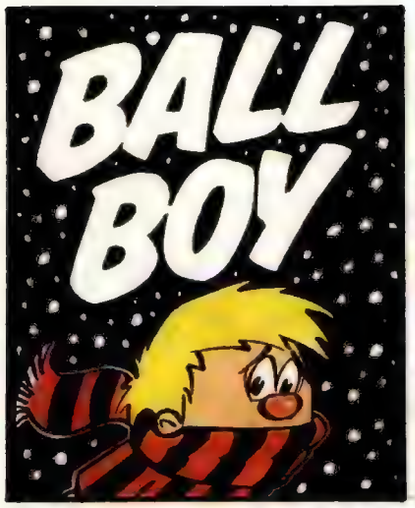
WAHEY!

POP!
EH? WHAT?
WAHEY! WE WON 37-0!

WHO CARES? MY UNCLE SAID WE CAN VISIT HIM AT WEMBLEY!
WOW! LUCKY LOT!
YIPPEE! WE'RE GOING TO PLAY AT WEMBLEY!

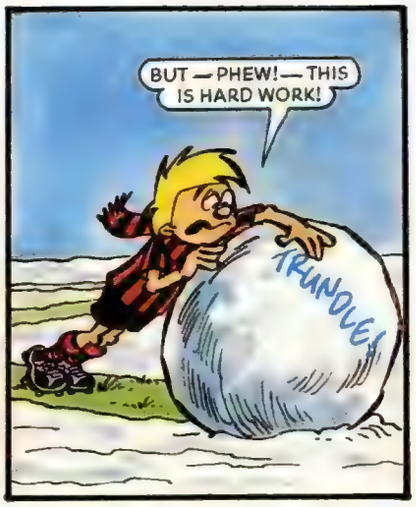

THIS WAY, BOYS! I WORK AT WEMBLEY ARENA — OVER HERE, WE HAD THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW LAST NIGHT!
HORSES? OH-OH!


And —
GLAD DIMMY LET YOU VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE HORSES! SCOOP IT UP, LADS!
DIMMY! YOU — YOU — YOU —
SORRY!
WE'VE BEEN DUNG!
HUGH!


BALL BOY

SNOW! BAH! TODAY'S GAME WILL BE POSTPONED!

UNLESS I CAN CLEAR THE PITCH. ANYTHING FOR A GAME!


BUT — PHEW! — THIS IS HARD WORK!
THUNDER!

GASP! I CAN'T PUSH IT ANY FURTHER!
STRUGGLE!

I'LL ASK FOR SOME HELP.
BEANOTOWN ZOO

And —
OF COURSE ERIC WILL HELP. HE'S A BIG FOOTBALL FAN!
I AM!
WELL HE'S BIG ALL RIGHT.

Shortly —
HEAVE!
BRILLIANT! HE'S CLEARED THE PITCH. WE CAN PLAY NOW!

THE TEAMS WILL BE HERE SOON — THEN WE CAN KICK-OFF.
HMM! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO . . .

. . . PLAY FOOTY!
BOOT!

JOKE CORNER
WHY DO YOU HATE DECIMALS?
I JUST DON'T GET THE POINT!
Jonathon Bolster, Londonderry.

GROAN! TRUST ME TO GET AN ELEPHANT THAT FANCIES HIMSELF AS MICHAEL OWEN!
OOPS!

BALL BOY

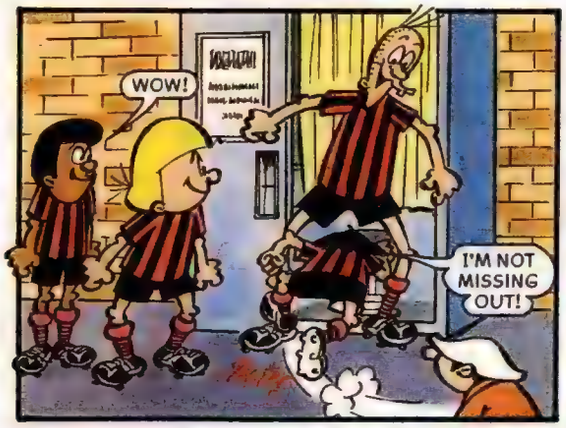
HUH! LOOK AT YOU ALL — PREENING YOURSELVES!
COMB!
FILE!
WELL, WE ARE HAVING OUR TEAM PHOTO TAKEN TODAY.

WAIT A MINUTE. WHERE'S DIMMY?
DON'T KNOW, BALL BOY.

Suddenly —
SORRY I'M L — OOOPS!
BUMP!
THERE GOES THE CAMERA!
WAH!
SMASH!

So —
WE'LL HAVE TO USE A PHOTO BOOTH INSTEAD.
ME FIRST.

YOU NEXT, DIMMS.
FLASH!


WOW!
I'M NOT MISSING OUT!

Shortly —
HERE COME THE PHOTOS!
BUT IT'S NOT A REAL TEAM PHOTO.

NO, BUT I'LL STICK THEM ON A SHEET. MAYBE THAT'LL HELP.
GLUE

JOKE CORNER
IS THAT DOUBLE TWO, DOUBLE TWO, DOUBLE TWO?
NO, THIS IS 222222.
OH, WELL, SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
THAT'S ALRIGHT, I WAS ON THE PHONE ALREADY.
David Cummins, Dublin.

ER, NO, IT WON'T! WE'LL NEVER GET ON 'MATCH OF THE DAY'. THIS LOT CAN'T PERFORM IN FRONT OF A CAMERA!

BALL BOY

Half-time —
WELL, THAT WAS A BRILLIANT FIRST HALF FROM ME! WHAT A PASS-BACK I PLAYED! AND MY THROW IN — PURE CLASS!
WE'RE 5-0 DOWN!

THE WAY I SHIMMIED THROUGH THOSE TWO OPPONENTS — A JOY TO WATCH!
OOF!
HEY!

SO THE SCOUT MUST BE WATCHING YOU, BALL BOY?
A SCOUT? REALLY? WOW!

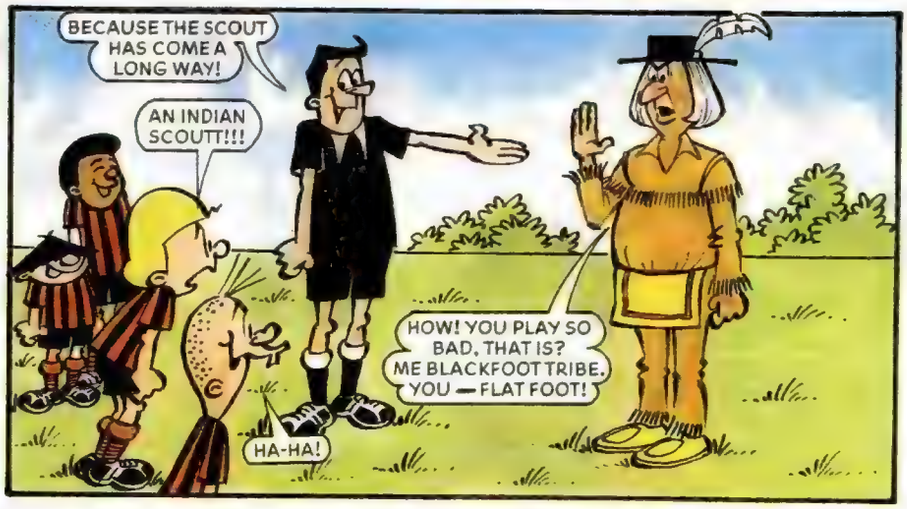
CALL ME B.B., FERGIE!
AT LAST! I'VE BEEN SCOUTED! A BIG TEAM WANT ME TO SIGN, MANCHESTER UNITED?

MORE AUTOGRAPHS FOR US, EH, GIGGSY!

I'LL GET A BIG, FLASH CAR. MARRY A SPICE GIRL!

I'LL HAVE TO APPEAR ON 'A QUESTION OF SPORT'. GREAT!

FAME AT LAST! I'LL PUT ON A REAL SHOW FOR THE SCOUT IN THE SECOND HALF.
THAT'S NICE, BALL BOY!


BECAUSE THE SCOUT HAS COME A LONG WAY!
AN INDIAN SCOUTT!!!
HOW! YOU PLAY SO BAD, THAT IS? ME BLACKFOOT TRIBE. YOU — FLAT FOOT!
HA-HA!

BALL BOY

BLAM! WHAT A SHOT! WHAT A GOAL! WHAT A STAR I AM!
BLOOTER!

AWFUL!
RUBBISH!
TERRIBLE!
WHAT??? IT WAS BRILLIANT!
NOT YOU — THE PIES!

SEE? THEY'RE RUBBISH!
NOT HALF!
NO, TA!
PONK!

After the game —
PIZZA
WE'LL GO ROUND TOWN TO FIND NEW GRUB FOR OUR FANS.
FOUR PIZZAS, PLEASE.
YEAH! THEY DESERVE IT!

GOTTEM!
SAVE!
CHOMP!
MUNCH!

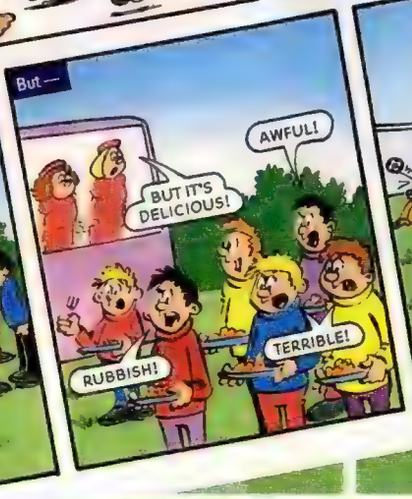
NINE OUT OF TEN FOR THE PIZZAS. WHERE NEXT?

Joe's burger van!
CHEESE BURGERS ALL ROUND!
AND CHIPS!
BOW!

Much face-filling later —
MY HOUSE NOW!
AROMA!
BUT THE WINNER SMELLS LIKE . . .

. . . BENJY'S MUM'S LASAGNE! LOVELY!
YEAH! THE CROWD WILL LOVE THIS!

Next game —
GREAT!
YUM!
THE LASAGNE IS SELLING WELL!


But —
AWFUL!
BUT IT'S DELICIOUS!
TERRIBLE!
RUBBISH!

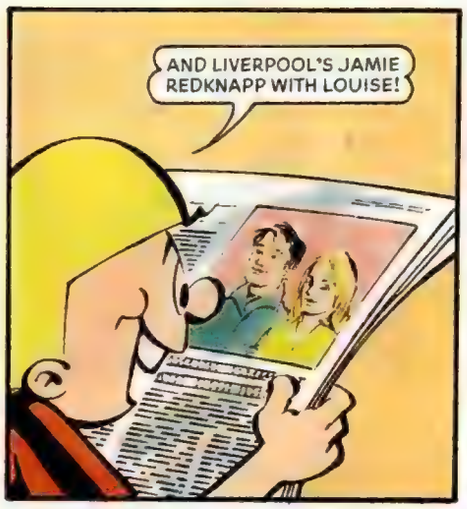
NO — IT'S THE FOOTBALL THAT'S AWFUL NOW! RUBBISH!
DOH! I CAN'T RUN!
OO! WE TESTED TOO MUCH GRUB!
37 — 0!

BALL BOY
LOOK AT OUR GEAR — IT'S A MESS! WE SHOULD LOOK AFTER IT BETTER!
TAKE THE STUDS OUT OF YOUR BOOTS!
YEAH! ALRIGHT!
UNSCREW
AND POLISH THE MUD OFF YOUR BOOTS!
ANYTHING FOR A QUIET LIFE.
SCRUB
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BALL BOY!
REMEMBER HOW TOUGH OUR OPPONENTS ARE. I'VE STILL GOT THE SCARS FROM LAST YEAR — SEE?
SHIN PADS IN! WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE INJURIES.
NO WAY!
LET'S DO IT!
NOW FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT BIT — PUT ON YOUR GEAR!
RIGHT!
Soon —
THAT'S IT! WE'RE READY TO TAKE THEM ON NOW!
THAT'S STRANGE CLOTHES TO PLAY FOOTY IN!
Reader's voice...
FOOTY???
WE'RE NOT PLAYING FOOTY IN THIS GEAR! WE'RE GOING TO THE BEANOTOWN LADIES F.C. ANNUAL DANCE!
IT WAS ROUGH LAST YEAR!
THAT'S WHY — OW! WE'RE WEARING BOOTS — YEOW! — AND SHIN PADS — OW! — THIS YEAR!
THE LADIES — HOWL! — ARE AWFUL — OW! — DANCERS!
OOPS!
HOOF
STOMP
PRANG!
HOWCH!
CRUNCH!

BALL BOY

FOOTY STARS AREN'T ONLY IN THE SPORTS PAGES NOWADAYS.

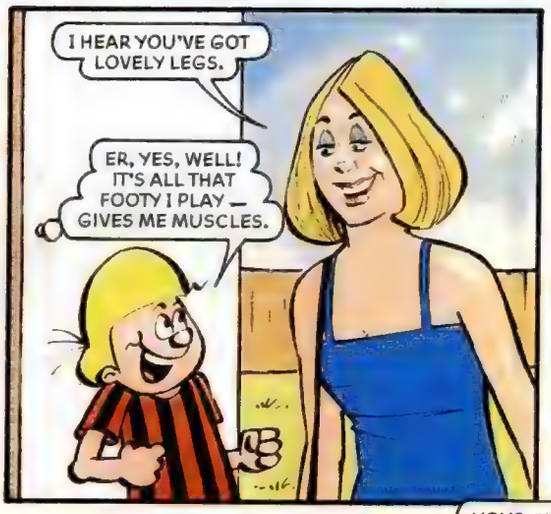
THEY'RE IN THE POP PAGES, TOO. LOOK — DAVID BECKHAM WITH POSH SPICE.


AND LIVERPOOL'S JAMIE REDKNAPP WITH LOUISE!

MAYBE A POP STAR OR A GORGEOUS GIRL WILL WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME. I'M A FOOTBALLER, TOO. MADONNA, MAYBE?

IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN, I SUPPOSE. NOW, WHO'S THAT AT THE DOOR?
DING! DONG!

WOW! SHE'S GORGEOUS!
HI!


I HEAR YOU'VE GOT LOVELY LEGS.
ER, YES, WELL! IT'S ALL THAT FOOTY I PLAY — GIVES ME MUSCLES.

AND A NICE CHEST.
WELL, I'VE HAD NO COMPLAINTS.

CALL IT TEN QUID, THEN.
EH? WHAT? WHAT'S THIS FOR?

YOUR CHEST! OF DRAWERS, THAT IS. IT'S GOT LOVELY LEGS. I SAW YOUR 'FOR SALE' AD.
OO! I THOUGHT — ER, WELL! AHEM! I'LL HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING FOR A GIRL!
I PUT THE AD IN THE PAPER!

BALL BOY

At Goalie's house —
THESE ARE ALL THE TROPHIES HE'S WON! I'M SO PROUD OF HIM!
BEST CAP
KEEPER OF THE CENTURY
SMUG ME!
SAVE OF THE YEAR

COME ON, BALL BOY. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I WON ALL THESE TROPHIES!
YOU'RE ON, GOALIE!

YOU'LL NEVER SAVE THIS BALL BOY BLOCK BUSTER!
OH, YEAH?

WOW! WHAT A SAVE, GOALIE. VERY IMPRESSIVE!
PALM
THIS IS HOW I WON THE 'SAVE OF THE MATCH' TROPHY.
BLAM!

HEY! NOW YOU'RE SHOWING OFF!
SAVE!
I GOT THE 'SAVE OF THE SEASON' TROPHY LIKE THIS.

NOW WHAT?
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I WON THE 'KEEPER OF THE MILLENIUM' TROPHY.

JUST LIKE THAT!
GREAT SAVE!
DOH!
BOOT!

SEE? I'M THE BEST! WANT TO TRY AGAIN, BALL BOY?

YOU BET! I'LL SCORE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! GIMME THE BALL.
SKLEFF!
OOPS!

WELL, HE'S BRILLIANT AT STOPPING BALLS — RUBBISH AT KICKING THEM!
OO-EE! I HOPE MUM HASN'T NOTICED!

I HAVE! LOOK WHAT YOU DID TO MY LOVELY WASHING! YOU HORROR!
ULP!
TIME FOR ANOTHER GOAL-KEEPING AWARD!

SCRUB 'EM ALL!
'MOST CLEAN SHEETS!' HA-HA!
SCRUB!
CLEAN!
YES, MUM!

BALL BOY

GREAT! MY COMPUTER HAS GIVEN ME LOADS OF NEW IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE TEAM! WE'LL WIN EASILY NOW!
GOALIE
TICH JIMMY BALL BOY
BECKHAM COLLINS
OWEN TAILOR

REMEMBER WHAT YOU PROMISED TO DO FOR ME AFTER THE GAME, BALL BOY.
YES, MUM. NO PROBLEM!

DON'T FORGET!
OVER-LAPPING FULL BACKS, WING-BACKS . . . YES, MUM . . . DEEP-LYING STRIKERS — I MEAN, NO, MUM! SIX ACROSS THE MIDDLE. EASY!

And —
RIGHT, LADS. I'VE GOT SOME NEW MATCH-WINNING TACTICS FOR YOU!
YEAH!
GREAT!
SOUNDS GOOD.

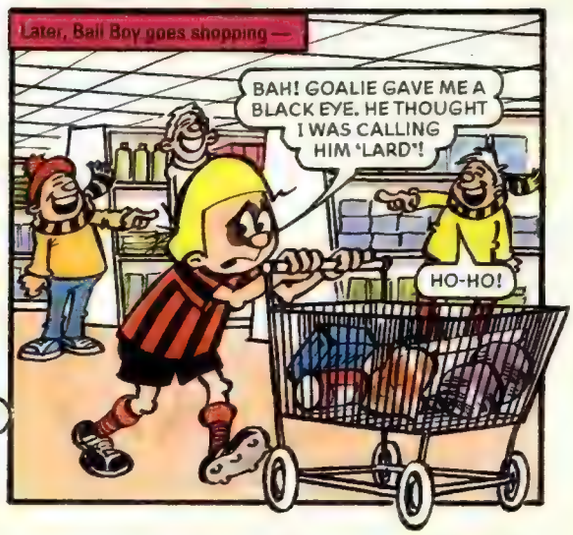
WE'LL WIN EVERY GAME NOW! NO HUMILIATING 37-0 DEFEATS AGAIN!
FANTASTIC, BALL BOY!
CREAK
WELL DONE, PAL!

YOUR TEAM SHEET, PLEASE. TO ANNOUNCE YOUR TEAM TO THE CROWD!
HERE, REF!

WOW! BALL BOY MUST HAVE SIGNED A LOT OF FOREIGN PLAYERS. I DON'T RECOGNISE ANY OF THE NAMES ON HIS TEAM SHEET.

But —
OH, NO! I STILL HAVE THE TEAM SHEET. I'VE GIVEN THE REF THE WRONG PAPER!

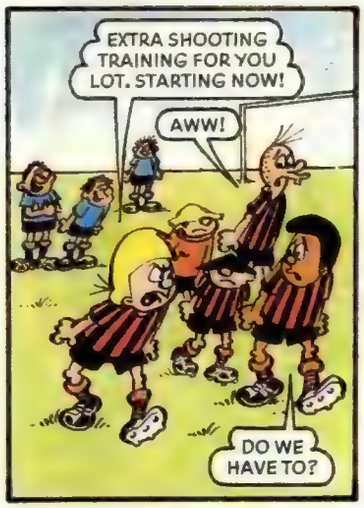
Too late! The teams are announced!
BALL BOY'S TEAM — LARD, MINCE, TURNIP, DOG FOOD, BANANA, HADDOCK . . .
WHAT A BUNCH OF LOSERS!
AARGH! THAT'S MUM'S SHOPPING LIST!
HA-HA!
HEE-HEE!


Later, Ball Boy goes shopping —
BAH! GOALIE GAVE ME A BLACK EYE. HE THOUGHT I WAS CALLING HIM 'LARD'!
HO-HO!

BALL BOY

WOEFUL! OUR SHOOTING IS TRULY WOEFUL! AWFUL!
HA-HA! RUBBISH!
PLOP!
OOPS!

THAT'S IT! I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SHOOTING! IT'S DISMAL.
HAW-HAW!
BOP!


EXTRA SHOOTING TRAINING FOR YOU LOT. STARTING NOW!
AWW!
DO WE HAVE TO?

So —
MISSED!
NICE TEA, THIS! YUM!
APPALLING!

Hours later —
A BIT BETTER!

And some more hours —
WOW! NOW GOALIE IS HAVING TO SAVE THE SHOTS!
SAVE!

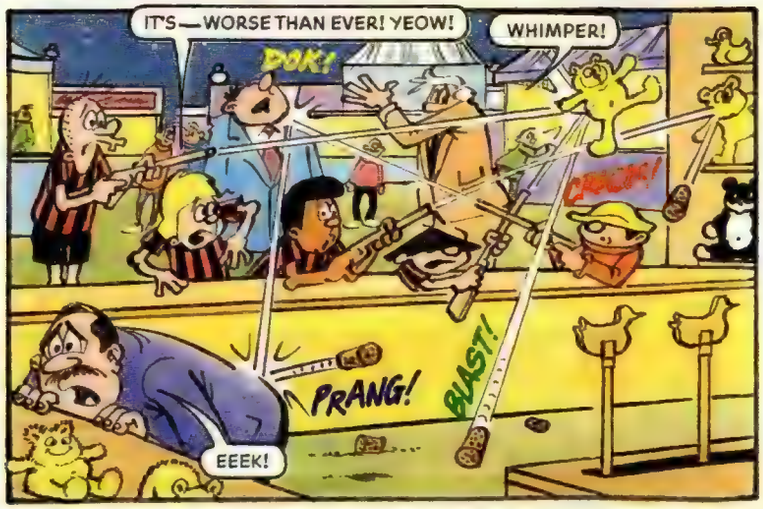
AMAZING! THEY'VE ACTUALLY SCORED WITH A SHOT!
BOOT!

And —
ASTOUNDING! WHAT A SHOT! BRILLIANT! SO GOOD, I'LL — I'LL — I'LL —
SWOOP!
GOAL!
SPIN!
WHAT, BALL BOY?

I'LL TAKE YOU ALL OUT! MY TREAT!
GREAT! THERE'S A FAIR IN TOWN.

THIS IS ON ME, LADS! YOUR SHOOTING HAS IMPROVED SO MUCH, WE'RE BOUND TO WIN EVERY GAME FROM NOW ON!
EASY!

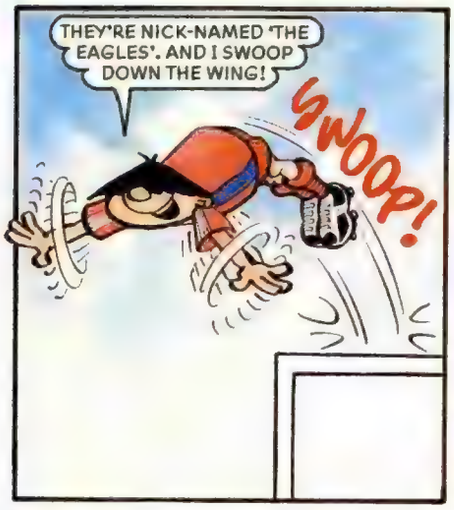
But —
YIKES! SO MUCH FOR THEIR SHOOTING IMPROVING!


IT'S — WORSE THAN EVER! YEOW!
WHIMPER!
DOK!
CRUNCH!
PRANG!
BLAST!
EEEK!

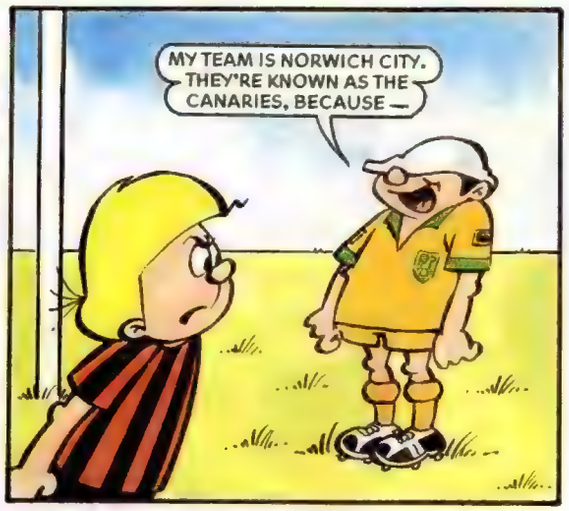
BALL BOY

Training today!
HMM! A SCOUT WATCHING US, PERHAPS?

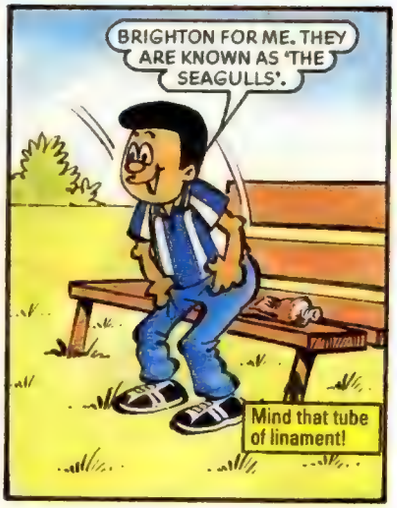
MAYBE HES FROM ONE OF OUR FAVOURITE TEAMS.
YEAH! CRYSTAL PALACE IS MY FAVE.


THEY'RE NICK-NAMED 'THE EAGLES'. AND I SWOOP DOWN THE WING!
SWOOP!

YEOWCH!
FLOP!
SORRY, DIMMY!
CRUNCH!
SWOOP? PLUMMET, MORE LIKE.


MY TEAM IS NORWICH CITY. THEY'RE KNOWN AS THE CANARIES, BECAUSE —

— THEY SING A LOT? WELL, YOU'VE GOT A VOICE LIKE A GANNET IMPERSONATING CILLA BLACK. SHUT IT!
MMF! NO! THEIR STRIP MAKES THEM LOOK LIKE CANARIES!


BRIGHTON FOR ME. THEY ARE KNOWN AS 'THE SEAGULLS'.
Mind that tube of linament!

OOPS! TYPICAL SEAGULL!
SPLURGE!
EE-YUK!
OO!
SQUIT!

COME ON, LADS. WE'VE GOT TO IMPRESS THE SCOUT!
ME?

I'M NOT A SCOUT! I'M A BUTCHER. BUT I COULD USE YOU LOT.
AW! HOW?

I COULD SELL YOU, BECAUSE YOU SHOULD BE NICK-NAMED ANOTHER KIND OF BIRD — TURKEYS!
HM! TRUE, I'M AFRAID. JUST LOOK AT THEM!
OOF!
HOWL!
WHAM!
CRUNCH!
YEOW!

BALL BOY

After a Liverpool match —
MICHAEL OWEN IS GREAT! FAB!
HE'S SO YOUNG — AND GOOD-LOOKING!

I'M JUST LIKE MICHAEL OWEN, YOU KNOW!
YOU, BALL BOY? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!

OUT OF THE WAY, SLOWCOACH!
I'M YOUNG, LIKE HIM.
RED BARGE!

I'M GOOD-LOOKING!
AARGH! WHAT AN UGLY MUSH!

IN FACT, ANYTHING MICHAEL OWEN CAN DO —

— I CAN DO BETTER!
WHAT ABOUT VOLLEYING?
TAP! TAP!

EASY!
SPLURD!
WOW! NICE VOLLEY! PITY ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE, THOUGH!

GRR!
SNORT!
SNARL!
OOPS! AND OH, DEAR!

MICHAEL OWEN?

BALL BOY IS MORE LIKE MICHAEL OWING!
GRR! PAY UP FOR OUR DRY CLEANING BILLS!
HAND OVER SOME DOSH!
PAY TIME!
EEK! IT'LL COST ME A FORTUNE!

BALL BOY

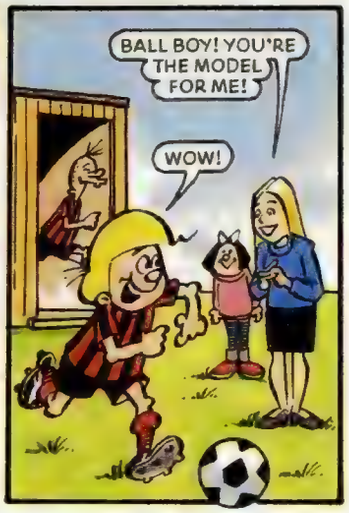
LOTS OF FOOTBALL PLAYERS ARE MODELS. BECKHAM, REDKNAPP, FERDINAND . . .

. . . SO WHY NOT BALL BOY? I'VE GOT THE LOOKS!
COOL OR WHAT?

THE STYLE, THE CLASS. IT'S ME! I'M A PERFECT MODEL.

SNIGGER!
IT'S COOL BEING A MODEL FOOTBALLER.

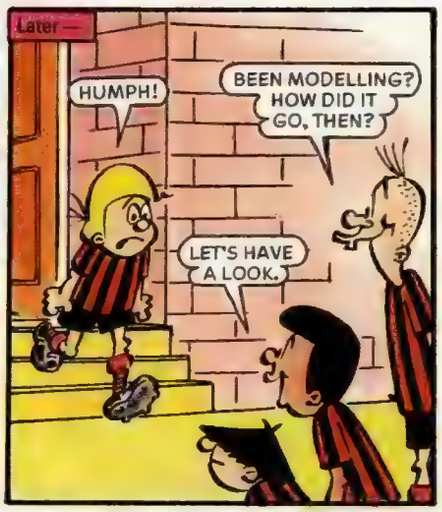
In the dressing room —
OH, YES, I'M A MODEL NOW.

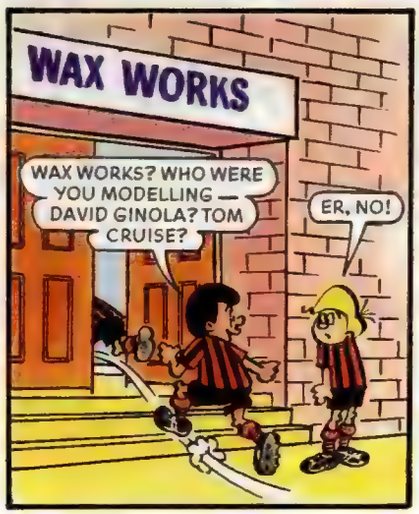

BALL BOY! YOU'RE THE MODEL FOR ME!
WOW!

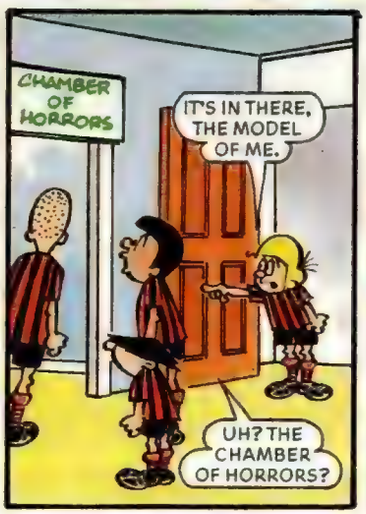
COR! SHE MUST THINK I'M A GREAT MODEL. SHE CAN'T TAKE HER EYES OFF ME.

I'LL GIVE A WAVE — OOPS!
YOU MISSED A SITTER! WALLY!

The game ends 0-0, thanks to Ball Boy!
WILL YOU MODEL FOR ME?
SURE! RIGHT NOW!

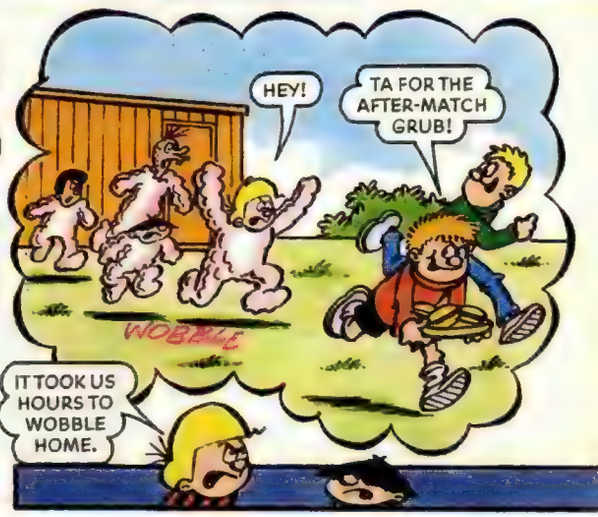

Later —
HUMPH!
BEEN MODELLING? HOW DID IT GO, THEN?
LET'S HAVE A LOOK.

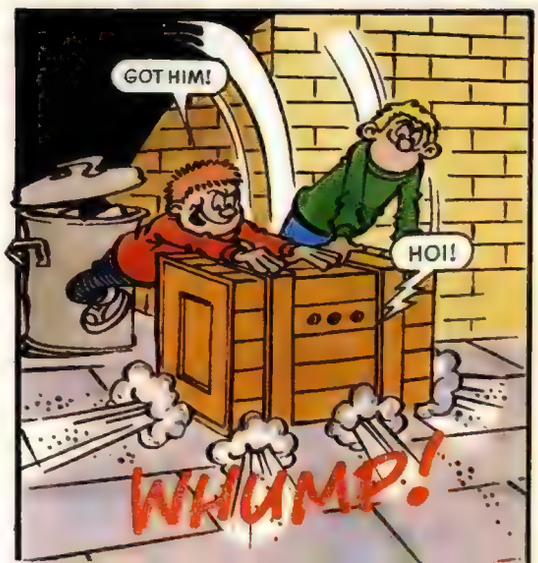

WAX WORKS
WAX WORKS? WHO WERE YOU MODELLING — DAVID GINOLA? TOM CRUISE?
ER, NO!

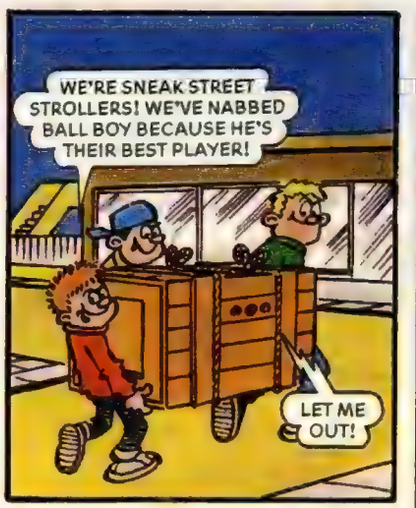

CHAMBER OF HORRORS
IT'S IN THERE, THE MODEL OF ME.
UH? THE CHAMBER OF HORRORS?

HA-HA! SHE'S MADE A MODEL OF HIS AWFUL MISS!
THE MISS!
AWFUL? IT WAS HORRIFIC!

An extra-time 4 page Ball Boy story, you lucky people!



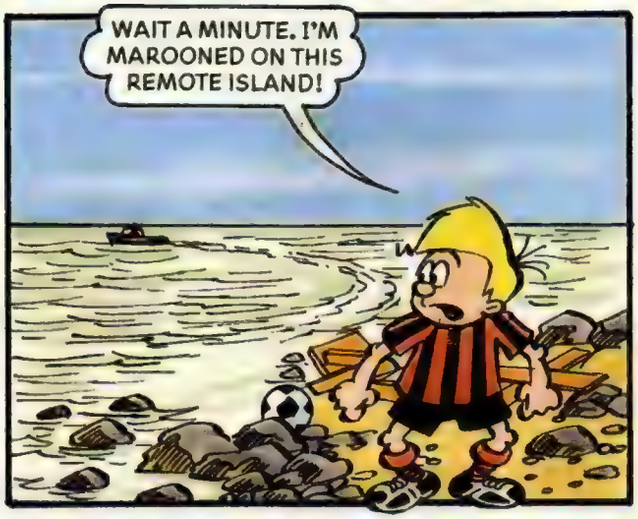




Hours later —
YAWN! I'VE BEEN IN HERE FOR HOURS. I MUST'VE FALLEN ASLEEP.

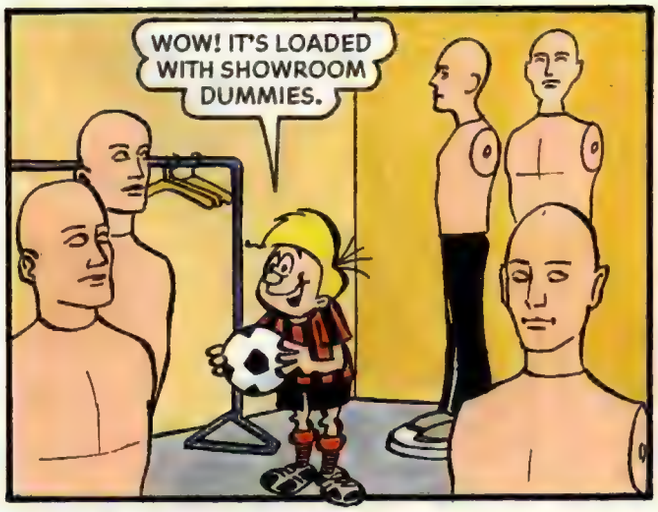
WONDER WHERE I AM?

YIKES! I'M AT SEA!


WAIT A MINUTE. I'M MAROONED ON THIS REMOTE ISLAND!

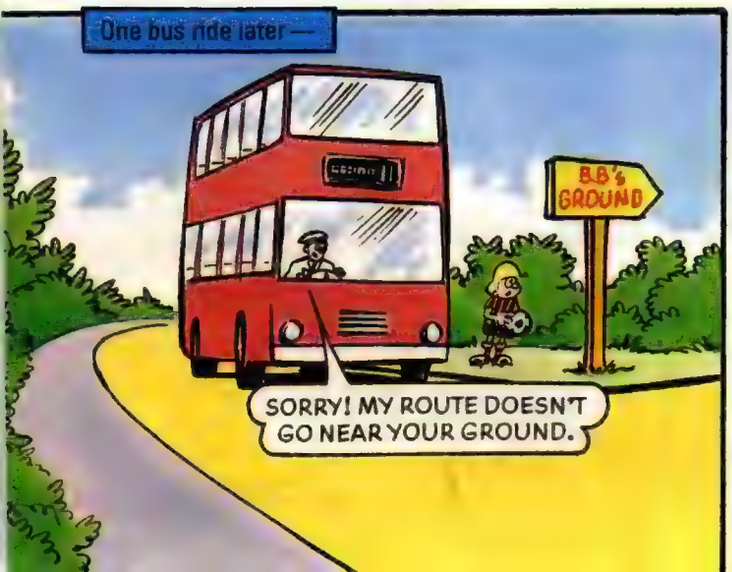
HOW WILL I GET TO THE GAME?

A RAFT! BITS OF CRATE AND ROPE SHOULD DO THE TRICK.


WOW! IT'S LOADED WITH SHOWROOM DUMMIES.

I CAN PLAY FOOTY WHILE THE TRUCK MOVES!
BOP!

Hours later —


One bus ride later —
B.B.'s GROUND
SORRY! MY ROUTE DOESN'T GO NEAR YOUR GROUND.

BUT HERE COMES MUDCHESTER UNITED'S TEAM BUS. THEY'LL GIVE ME A LIFT HOME.

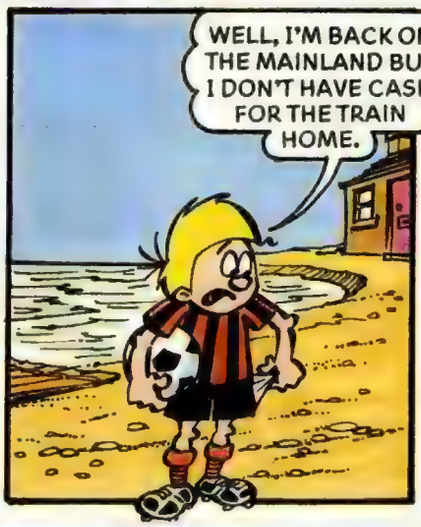
But —

YIKES! A TALKING CRATE!

SPECIAL DELIVERY! NOW I'M OFF. IT'S TOO CREEPY — TALKING CRATES, INDEED.
OUCH!
NOWHERE

YAHOO! FREE AT LAST!
I HEARD THAT!

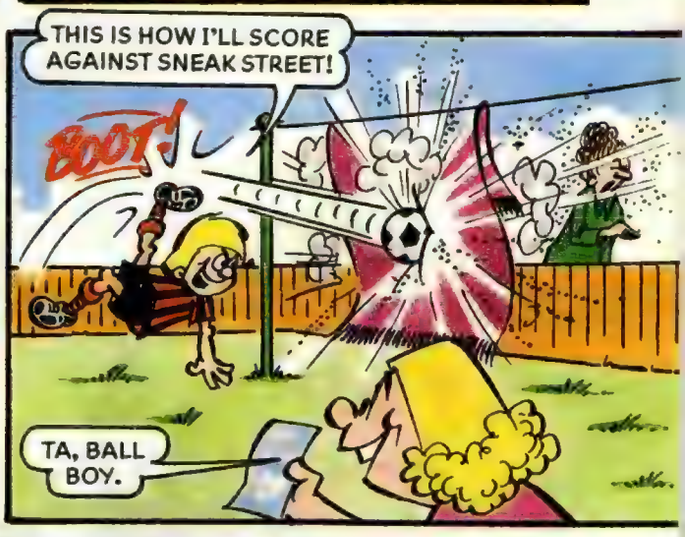
Lots of paddling later —
AHA! LAND AHOY!


WELL, I'M BACK ON THE MAINLAND BUT I DON'T HAVE CASH FOR THE TRAIN HOME.

I'LL SNEAK A LIFT ABOARD THAT TRUCK.
REMOVALS

I'M STILL 20 MILES FROM HOME!

And —
OO! I HATE THIS JOB.
TIRED TAP!
AHA! A CHANCE TO EARN MY BUS FARE HOME.


THIS IS HOW I'LL SCORE AGAINST SNEAK STREET!
BOOT!
TA, BALL BOY.

SH!
URGH! WRONG! YEE-UCK!

Then —
GOSH! IT'S OUR ONE AND ONLY SUPPORTER! GIVE ME A LIFT, PAL!

I'LL DOUBLE THE MONEY WE USUALLY PAY YOU TO WATCH THE GAME.
GIVE ME A BLIND-FOLD TOO, THOUGH.

BAH! WHICH PLAYER IS THE REAL BOY?

WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHO TO MARK!

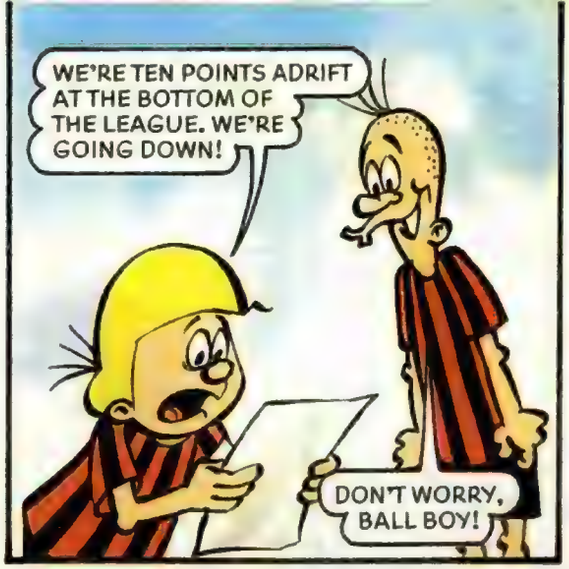
GOAL!

EASY!

BLATTER!

WELL DONE, BALL BOY. OR AM I BALL BOY?

BALL BOY

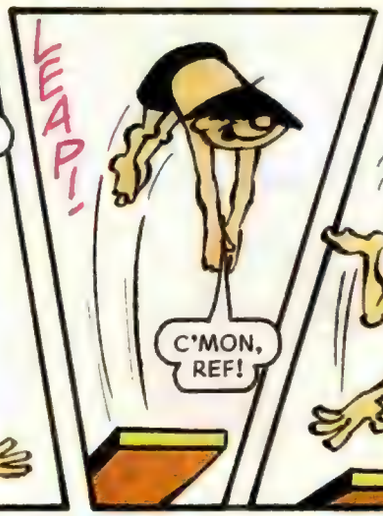

WE'RE TEN POINTS ADRIFT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE. WE'RE GOING DOWN!
DON'T WORRY, BALL BOY!

BUT THIS IS SERIOUS! IT CALLS FOR DRASTIC ACTION. WE NEED A NEW CAPTAIN.
REMOVING HIS CAPTAIN ARM BAND
WOW!

SWAB THE DECK, YOU SCURVY DOGS!
EH? WELL, HE TAKES TRAINING A BIT SERIOUSLY!

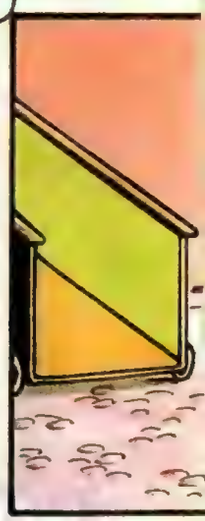
SEE? GREAT FOR SLIDING TACKLES NOW!
WOW! YOU'RE RIGHT, CAP'N!
SLIDE
WHIZZ

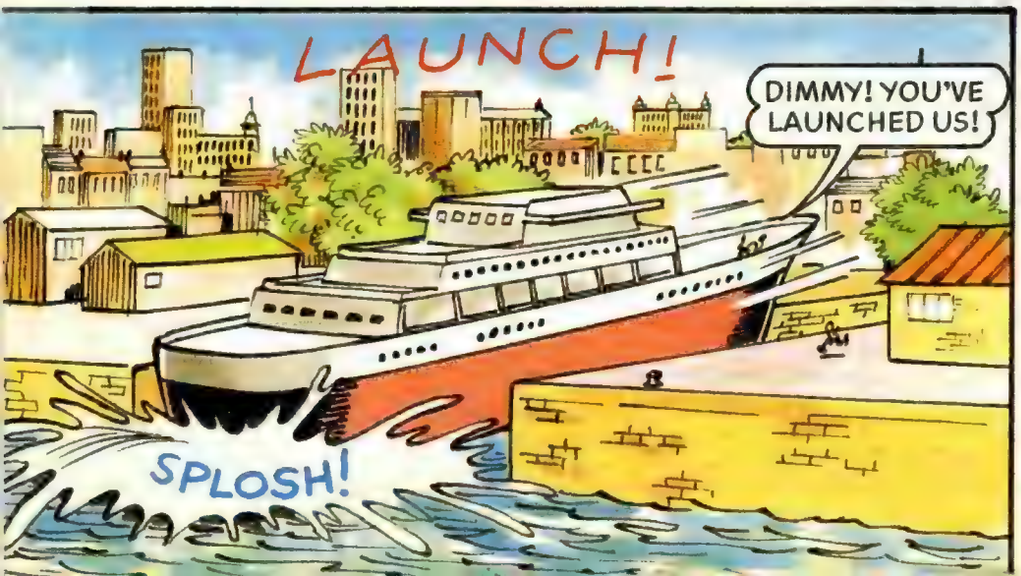
SWOOP!
WE'LL WIN LOTS OF PENALTIES NOW!

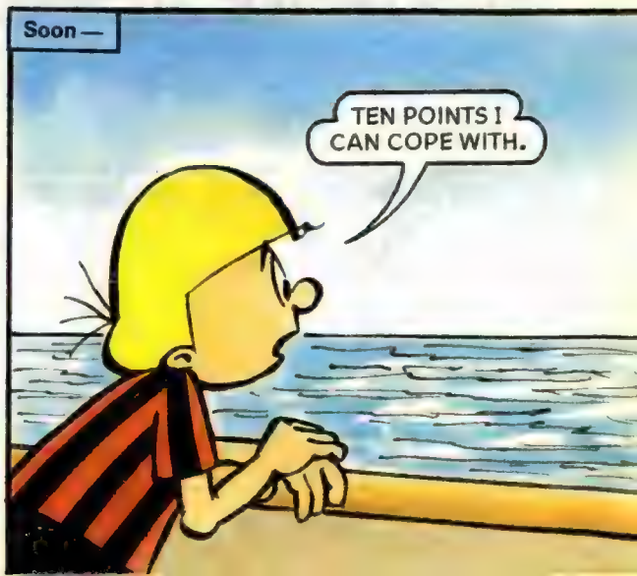

LEAP!
C'MON, REF!

JUST LIKE OWEN!
FLOP!

CAP'N BIRD'S-THIGH IS GREAT! WE'LL WIN LOADS NOW HE'S TRAINED US. BUT I'M OFF FOR MY TEA!




LAUNCH!
DIMMY! YOU'VE LAUNCHED US!
SPLOSH!


Soon —
TEN POINTS I CAN COPE WITH.

AR! AR! I BE YER MAN!
CAP'N BIRD'S-THIGH! YOU'RE, ER, WELL, A CAPTAIN!
YOU SEE, BUILDING A GOOD FOOTBALL TEAM IS JUST LIKE BUILDING A GOOD SHIP'S CREW!
OO-ER! WE'RE THE TITANIC CREW!
And —
WALK THE PLANK, LAND-LUBBER!
HEY!
PRANG!
IT'S TO HELP YOU DIVE, GOALIE!
DIVE
SAVE
WAHEY!
NICE SAVE!
YIKES! WHASSAT?
SLIP!
AN OLD BOTTLE! THAT'S NO USE!
TOSS!
OH-OH!
OH, NO!
CRASH
BUT BEING MILES ADRIFT IS JUST HORRIBLE! HELP!
SORRY, LADS! HOPE YOU DON'T GO DOWN!
SCREECH
DRIFTING!

BALL BOY

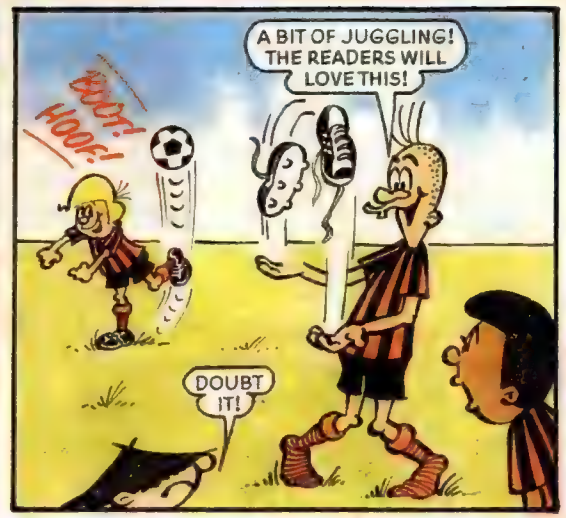
19 HOURS, 5 MINUTES AND 31 SECONDS. THAT'S THE WORLD KEEPIE UP RECORD!
REALLY? HOW INTERESTING. YAWN!

YES — AND I'M GOING TO BREAK THE RECORD. STARTING NOW.
WE'LL SUPPORT YOU, BALL BOY.
TAP!
WE'VE NOTHING BETTER TO DO!

TWO SECONDS, THREE —
BOP!
THIS IS A BIT BORING!
NOT HALF!

WE'LL HAVE TO AMUSE THE READERS WHILE BALL BOY CARRIES ON.
GOOD IDEA!
WAAP!

LET US ENTERTAIN YERS!
BOP!
Er, not quite as good as Robbie Williams, is it?


A BIT OF JUGGLING! THE READERS WILL LOVE THIS!
BOOT!
HOOF!
DOUBT IT!

FOUR HOURS!
PLATE SPINNING ALWAYS GETS A LAUGH!
TIK!
THIS MUST BE A WORLD'S FIRST, THEN!

ELEVEN HOURS TWO MINUTES!
A SPOT OF DANCING! YOU CAN LAUGH NOW, READERS!

FIFTEEN HOURS!
YOUR HOLIDAY PHOTOS — NOT AMUSING AT ALL, TICH!

ALMOST THERE! 19 HOURS 5 MINUTES AND 29 SECONDS!
WE'RE READY TO CELEBRATE!
I'VE GOT THE FIZZY STUFF!

AND ONE LAST KEEPIE-UP!
NNNGH!
GRAPPLE!
ALMOST THERE!

BOP!
POP!
OOPS!
DONE — EH?
OH, NO!

DIMMY! GRR!
OH-OH! I'VE DONE IT NOW!
THUMP!
IT HIT THE GROUND! RECORD UNBROKEN!!!

And —
AH! ENTERTAINMENT AT LAST, READERS!
GRR! NOW I'M TRYING FOR THE KEEPING DIMMY UP RECORD!
HA-HA!
BOOT!
OW! 19 HOURS, 5 MINUTES AND 31 SECONDS OF THIS? YEOW!

BALL BOY

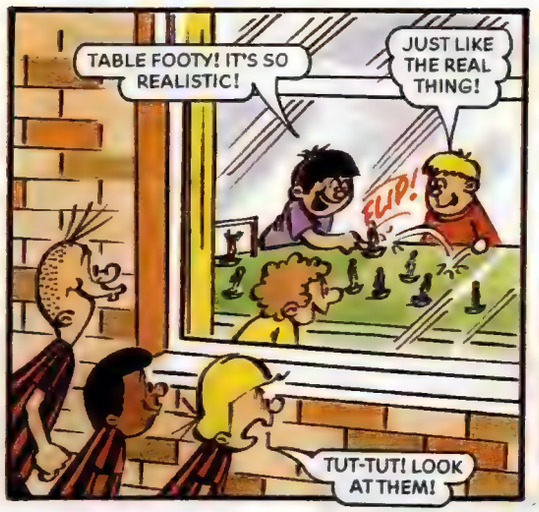
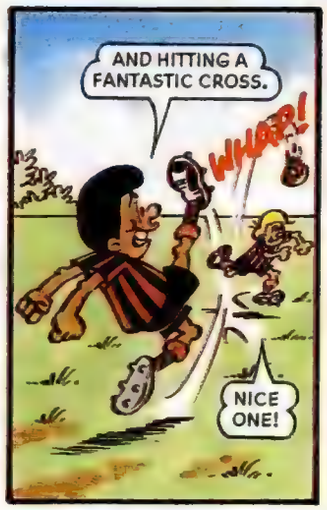


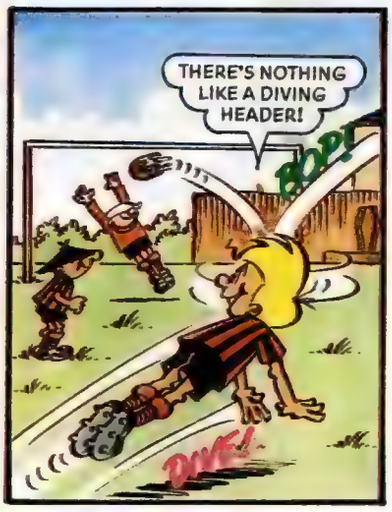
TABLE FOOTY! IT'S SO REALISTIC!
JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!
FLIP!
TUT-TUT! LOOK AT THEM!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE PLAYING FOOTBALL FOR REAL!
YOU BET!
TOO TRUE!

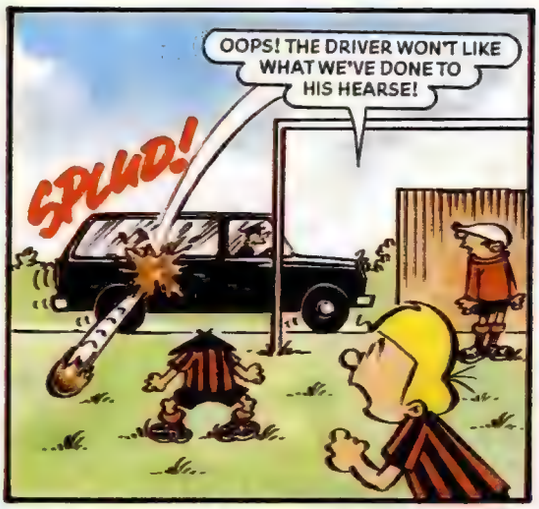
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE SPRINTING DOWN THE WING!
ZOOM!

TAKING ON PLAYERS.
SLIDE!


AND HITTING A FANTASTIC CROSS.
WHOOP!
NICE ONE!


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A DIVING HEADER!
BOP!
DIVE!

OR A GREAT SAVE!
SAVE!
NICE ONE, GOALIE! MUCH BETTER THAN TABLE FOOTY!


OOPS! THE DRIVER WON'T LIKE WHAT WE'VE DONE TO HIS HEARSE!
SPLUD!

QUICK! HIDE!
BUT WHERE?

And —
THAT WAS A GREAT GAME OF FOOTY. AND SO REALISTIC!
YOU BET!

WOW! IT REALLY IS JUST LIKE THE REAL THING!
HOW'S THAT!

THESE PLAYERS GO BACK IN THEIR BOX AT THE END OF A GAME. JUST LIKE THOSE REAL PLAYERS! HA-HA!
SLAM!
HE'LL NEVER FIND US IN HERE!
HO-HO!
SLAM!

BALL BOY

LETTER FOR BALL BOY!
THAT'S ME. FAMOUS FOOTBALLER, I AM!

WOW! IT'S AN INVITE TO PLAY IN THE CHAMPS' LEAGUE!

WE'VE HIT THE BIG TIME AT LAST, TEAM — THE CHAMPS' LEAGUE!
COR! WE'LL BE PLAYING JUVENTUS! INTER MILAN!
MANCHESTER UNITED!

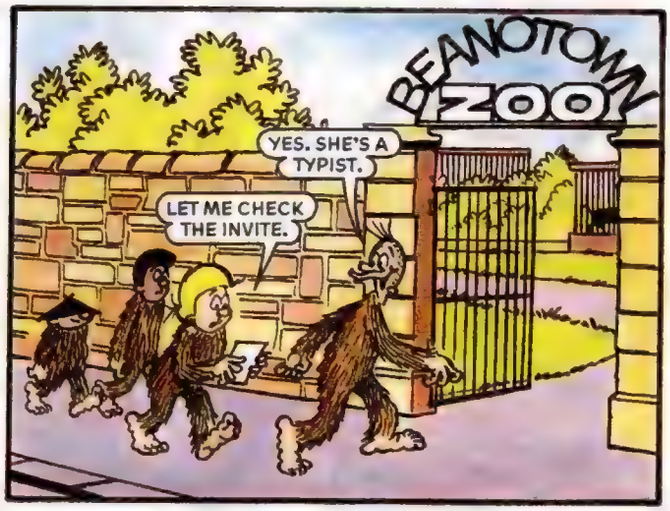
HIYA, LADS! SO YOU GOT THE INVITE, THEN?
YIPPEE!
WAHEY! WE'RE GOING ALL OVER EUROPE!

THE INVITE FROM MY MUM, I MEAN.
YOUR MUM?

YEAH. SHE ASKED US TO PUT THESE ON. TO MAKE OUR OPPONENTS FEEL COMFORTABLE.
TOSS!
UH? WHAT'S THIS?

THESE ARE FUNNY STRIPS, DIMMY! BUT YOUR MUM KNOWS BEST. SHE WORKS FOR U.E.F.A AFTER ALL.

U.E.F.A.? THE ORGANISERS OF THE CHAMPS' LEAGUE? NO. SHE WORKS AT BEANOTOWN ZOO.
THE ZOO?

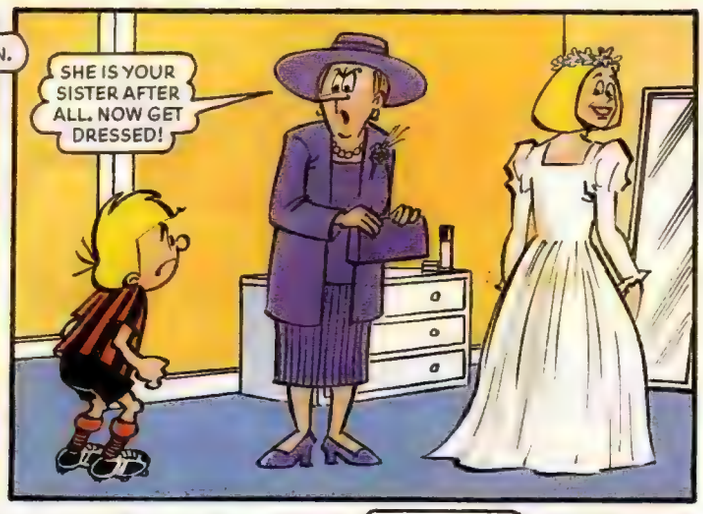

BEANOTOWN ZOO
YES. SHE'S A TYPIST.
LET ME CHECK THE INVITE.

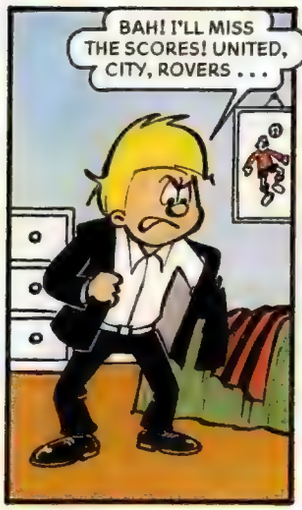
OH, NO!
SILLY ME! DID I TYPE 'CHAMPS' LEAGUE?

SHOULD'VE BEEN CHIMPS' LEAGUE! THE CHIMPS LIKE A FOOTY MATCH!
HEE-HEE!
EASY!
BOOT!
WALLOP!
DIMMY! YOU CHUMP!
GOAL!
OW!

BALL BOY

AWW, MUM! IT'S SATURDAY AFTERNOON. DO I HAVE TO GO TO THIS WEDDING?
YES!


SHE IS YOUR SISTER AFTER ALL. NOW GET DRESSED!


BAH! I'LL MISS THE SCORES! UNITED, CITY, ROVERS . . .

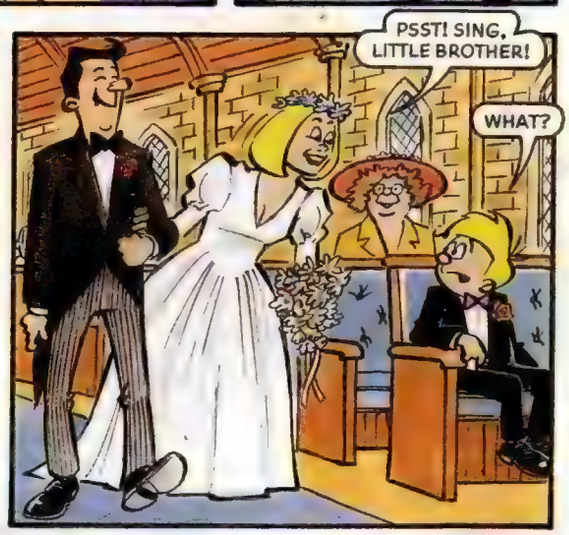
So —
WELL, I'M READY!
NO!

YOU'LL WEAR A FLOWER LIKE EVERY ONE ELSE!
MY FOOTY ROSETTE!
SNATCH!
UTD

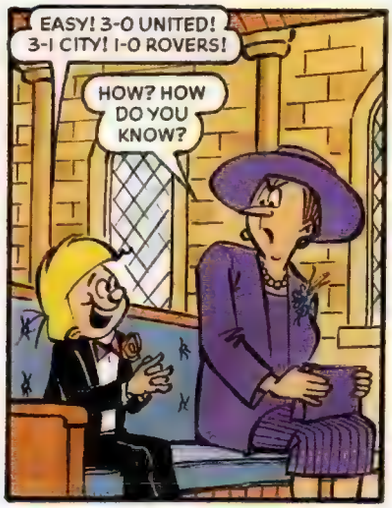
AND YOU CAN LEAVE THIS, AND YOUR POCKET TV!
AW!

Soon —
G O A L !
BAH! I'LL NEVER FIND OUT THE SCORES IN CHURCH!

And —
HERE COMES THE BRIDE!
HUMPH! IT'S FULL TIME! WONDER WHAT THE SCORES WERE?


PSST! SING, LITTLE BROTHER!
WHAT?

WOW! FANTASTIC! THANKS, SIS!
WHAT?


EASY! 3-0 UNITED! 3-1 CITY! 1-0 ROVERS!
HOW? HOW DO YOU KNOW?

THE VICAR IS A FOOTY FAN, TOO! HA-HA!
NO PROBLEM!
3-0 U
3-1 C
1-0 R
CHECK OUT THE HYMN NUMBERS, MUM!

BALL BOY

IT'S ALMOST FULL-TIME, BENJY.
JUST INJURY TIME TO PLAY.

40 MINUTES OF INJURY TIME TO BE PLAYED, BALL BOY.
40 MINS.
BUT, REF! NO-ONE GOT INJURED IN THE GAME!

But you wasted time buying an ice cream.
I SAID 'CORNER', NOT 'CORNET'.
I FORGOT THAT!

Play stopped when Dimmy got his arm stuck.
HOW COULD YOU?
STUCK!

I WAS TRYING TO PULL TITCH OUT OF A RABBIT HOLE!
GOTTIM!
PLOP!
TRUE!

I HAD TO ADD TIME ON AFTER YOUR GOAL CELEBRATION!
NOT ONE OF MY BETTER IDEAS!

THE FIRE BRIGADE HAD TO COME AND GET YOU DOWN!
AHEM! I REMEMBER.

AND WE USED UP TIME CHASING THAT CRISP NABBER!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BENJY.

WE THOUGHT HE WAS A GROUNDSMAN, PAINTING THE DRESSING ROOM!
HEE-HEE!

HEY!
GOT THEM!
UNTIL HE RAN OFF WITH OUR HALF TIME CRISPS!

HE THREW OFF HIS DISGUISE AND ATE THE CRISPS — HIS BIG MISTAKE!
YES!
CRISPS

THEY WERE MADE BY OLIVE, THE BASH STREET COOK. SEAWEED AND THISTLE FLAVOUR! YUK!
GROO!
YUP! IT'S GARY!

NO WONDER THERE'S SO MUCH TIME TO BE ADDED ON!
READY, LADS? DROP BALL!

HOWL!
OOPS!
MISSED! SORRY!
BOOT!

HEE-HEE! INJURY TIME — AND THE REF GOT INJURED!
WE'LL WASTE NO TIME TAKING HIM TO HOSPITAL!
HOWL
OOO
PAIN

BALL BOY

I'M GOING ON TELLY TONIGHT! I'M SO EXCITED!

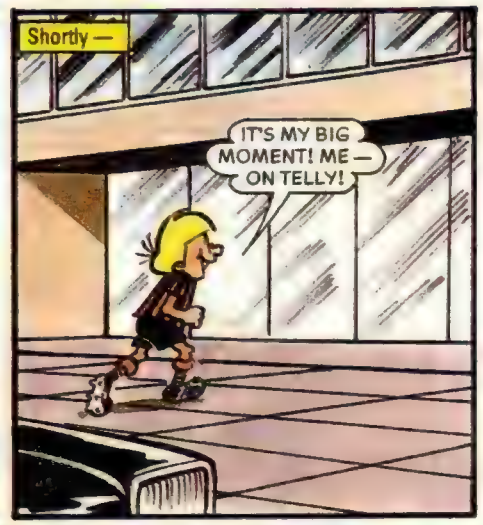
YOU KNOW, I'M A FANTASTIC FOOTBALL PLAYER!
TAP! TAP!

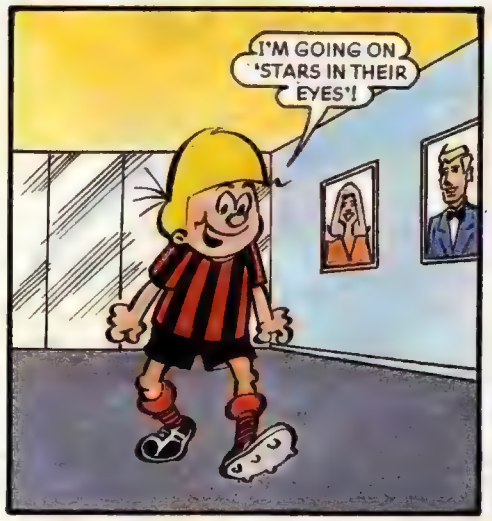
YEAH! I'LL BELIEVE YOU, BALL BOY!
CAT-LIKE LEAP!
WOW! TACKLED BY A CAT!

I'LL BE OFF NOW, MUM! BYE!
OKAY, SON. BUT BEFORE YOU GO —
PASS!

— EASY!
HAW-HAW! NUTMEGGED BY YOUR MUM!
OO!
WHOP!

I HOPE HIS T V APPEARANCE GOES WELL, BUT HE'S RUBBISH AT FOOTY!
TOO TRUE!

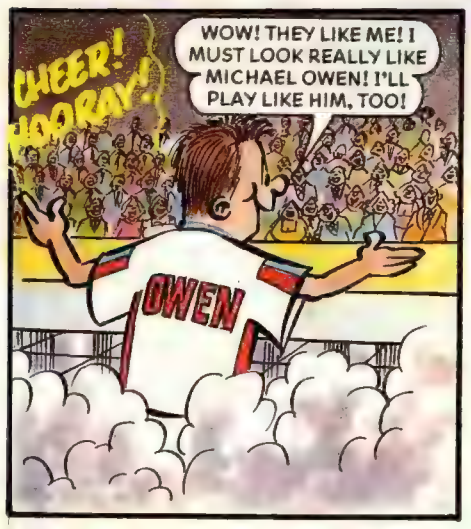

Shortly —
IT'S MY BIG MOMENT! ME — ON TELLY!

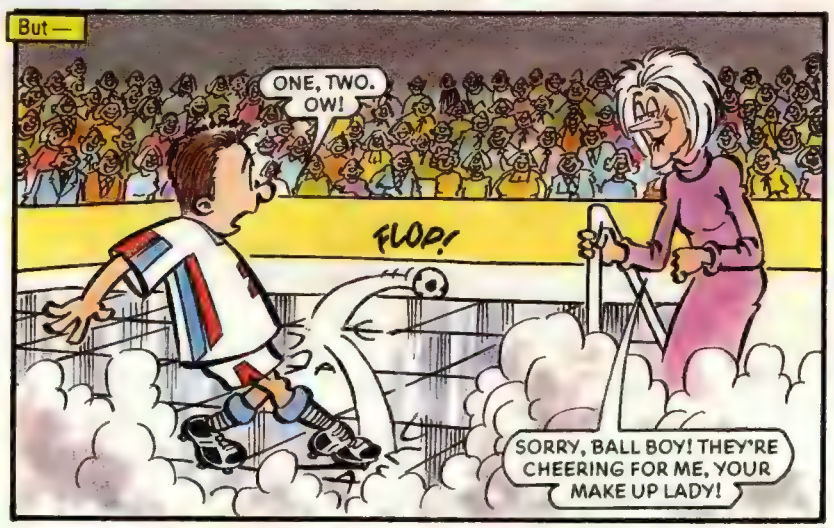

I'M GOING ON 'STARS IN THEIR EYES'!

And —
HI, MATTHEW! I'M BALL BOY, BRILLIANT FOOTBALLER!
NOT WHAT I'VE HEARD!

TONIGHT, MATTHEW, I'M GOING TO BE —

— MICHAEL OWEN!
20


CHEER! HOORAY!
WOW! THEY LIKE ME! I MUST LOOK REALLY LIKE MICHAEL OWEN! I'LL PLAY LIKE HIM, TOO!
OWEN


But —
ONE, TWO. OW!
FLOP!
SORRY, BALL BOY! THEY'RE CHEERING FOR ME, YOUR MAKE UP LADY!

CHEEK!
20
BRILLIANT WORK! YOU MADE BALL BOY LOOK LIKE A FOOTBALLER!
THANKS, MATTHEW. SORRY I COULDN'T MAKE HIM PLAY LIKE A REAL FOOTBALLER!

BALL BOY

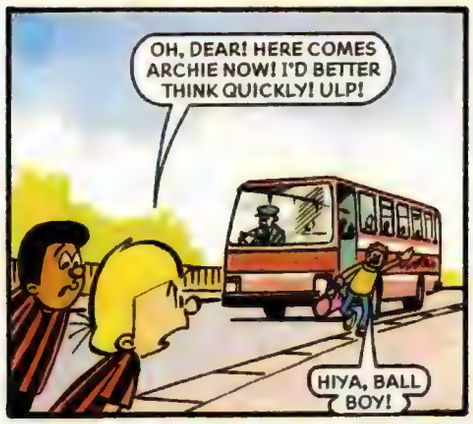
OH, NO! MY PEN PAL, ARCHIE, IS COMING TO VISIT ME — TODAY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, BALL BOY?

ER, I FIBBED A LITTLE. I TOLD HIM OUR PITCH WAS THE BEST IN THE LEAGUE.
WALLHAM
WELL, YOU COULD FIB AGAIN — TELL HIM IT WAS HIT BY A COMET!

AND I SAID OUR DRESSING ROOM WAS ALL MODERN AND COMFY!
WHAT A WHOPPER!

IT'S ER, NOT, IS IT?
NO WAY!

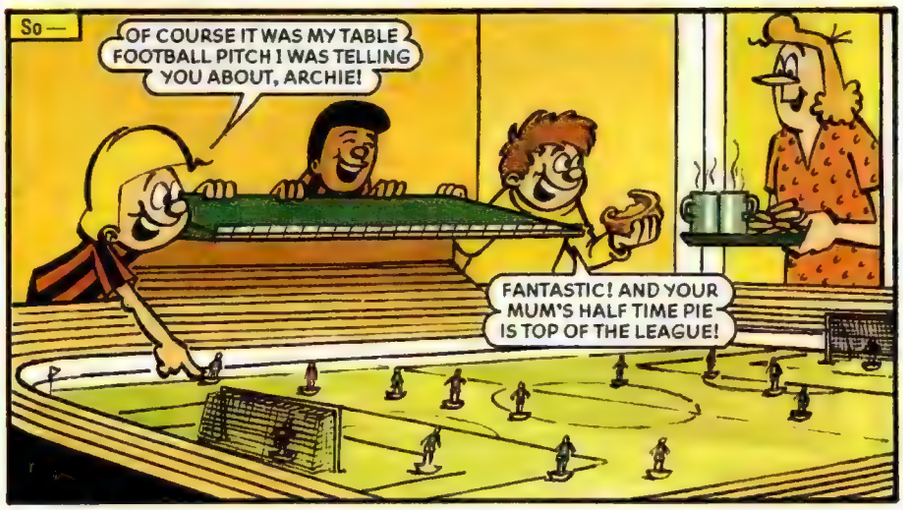
AND I SAID WE HAD GREAT FLOODLIGHTS!
BUT THE BATTERY IN THIS BIKE LAMP WENT FLAT AGES AGO!
DEFUNCT!


OH, DEAR! HERE COMES ARCHIE NOW! I'D BETTER THINK QUICKLY! ULP!
HIYA, BALL BOY!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, PEN PAL!
ME TOO!

I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR SUPER PITCH — WITH IT'S GREAT DRESSING ROOMS, FLOODLIGHTS AND ALL THE STUFF YOU TOLD ME ABOUT!
HOW WILL BALL BOY GET OUT OF THIS?

JUDE'S JOKE CORNER
WHAT DO BABY LOLLIPOPS DO?
SUCK THEIR THUMBS!
Benjamin Hurley, Highfield.


So —
OF COURSE IT WAS MY TABLE FOOTBALL PITCH I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, ARCHIE!
FANTASTIC! AND YOUR MUM'S HALF TIME PIE IS TOP OF THE LEAGUE!

BEANO
YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH

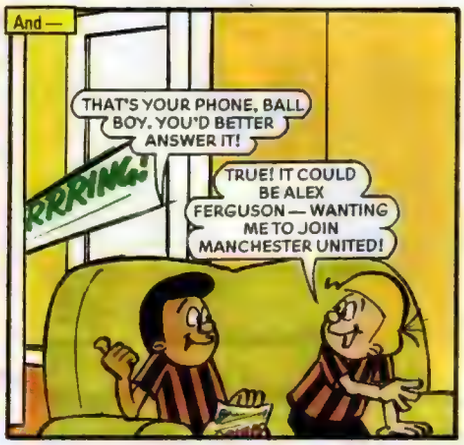
BALL BOY

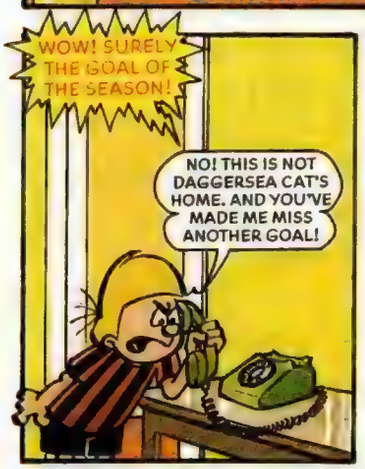
DING! DONG!
AHA! THAT MUST BE BENJY AT THE DOOR. HE'S JUST IN TIME FOR THIS SUPER MATCH ON THE TELLY!

HI, BALL BOY!
WHAT A GOAL!
BENJY — OH, NO! I'VE MISSED A GOAL!

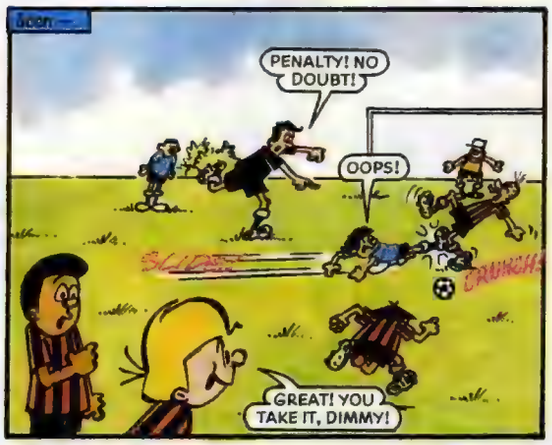
GREAT GAME, THIS. ANY MORE CRISPS, THOUGH?
SURE! I'LL FETCH SOME.
GLUG!

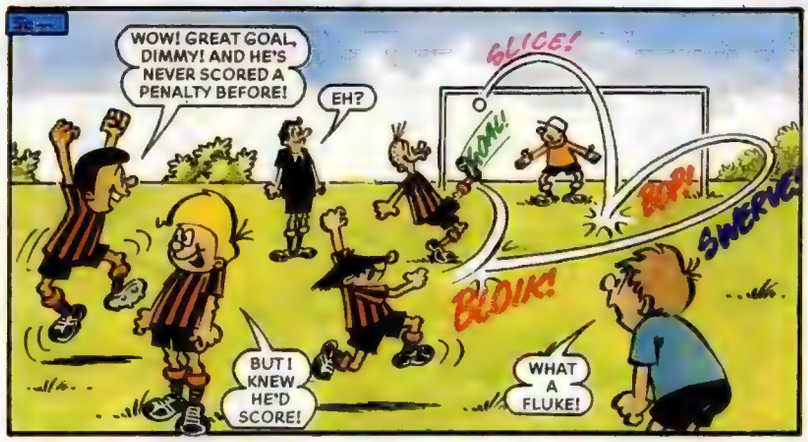
ANOTHER FANTASTIC GOAL!
SMOKEY BECKHAM. AMATO SAUCE. OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!


And —
THAT'S YOUR PHONE, BALL BOY. YOU'D BETTER ANSWER IT!
RRRING!
TRUE! IT COULD BE ALEX FERGUSON — WANTING ME TO JOIN MANCHESTER UNITED!


WOW! SURELY THE GOAL OF THE SEASON!
NO! THIS IS NOT DAGGERSEA CAT'S HOME. AND YOU'VE MADE ME MISS ANOTHER GOAL!

After the match —
GRR! I MISSED ALL THE GOALS IN THAT MATCH, BENJY!
NEVER MIND! WE'VE OUR OWN MATCH TO PLAY!


Soon —
PENALTY! NO DOUBT!
OOPS!
SLIDE
CRUNCH!
GREAT! YOU TAKE IT, DIMMY!


Soon —
WOW! GREAT GOAL, DIMMY! AND HE'S NEVER SCORED A PENALTY BEFORE!
EH?
SLICE!
WOW!
BOP!
SWERVE!
BLOIK!
BUT I KNEW HE'D SCORE!
WHAT A FLUKE!

SOMEONE ALWAYS SEEMS TO SCORE WHEN MY BACK IS TURNED!
HA-HA!

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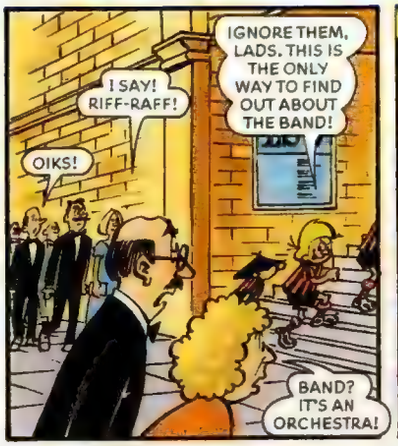
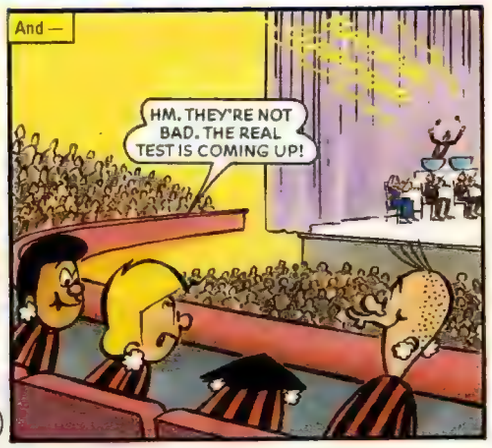
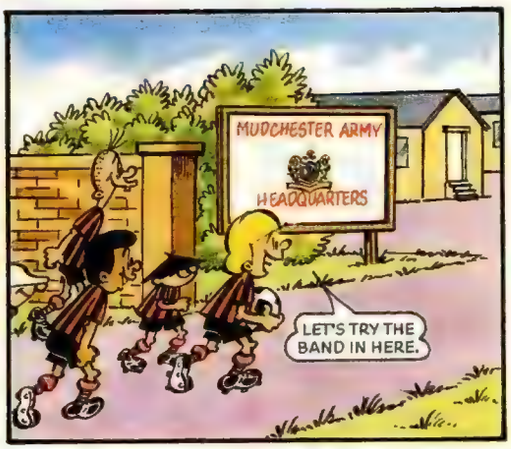
BALL BOY

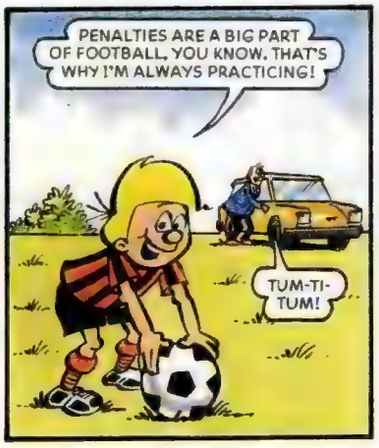


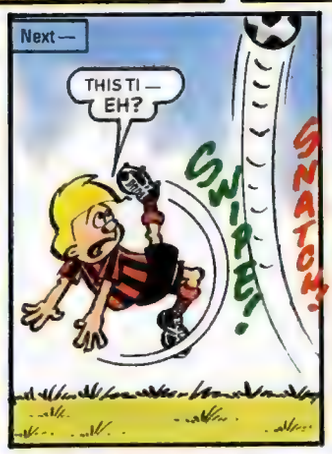




LIKE GNASHER? SEE GNASHER'S SNAPS TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON HIM!

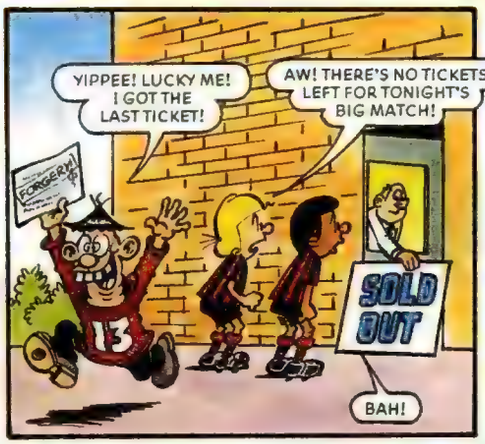
BALL BOY





PSST! WANNA WIN A COOL T-SHIRT A HUGE POSTER AND A GREAT PRACTICAL JOKE?
'COURSE YOU DO! THEN SEND YOUR GAGS TO! JOE'S JOKE CORNER, THE BEANO, P.O. BOX 305 LONDON NW1 1TX.

BALL BOY


YIPPEE! LUCKY ME! I GOT THE LAST TICKET!
AW! THERE'S NO TICKETS LEFT FOR TONIGHT'S BIG MATCH!
FORGERY!
13
SOLD OUT
BAH!

STILL, WE'VE GOT OUR OWN MATCH TO PLAY TODAY.
PLOP!
YIKES! UNLUCKY ME!
TRUE, BALL BOY!

So —
OWCHES!
OUCH!
WOW! A NASTY CLASH OF HEADS!

I'M ALRIGHT! MY HEAD IS REALLY THICK.
ER, I'M FINE. BUT THAT BUMP GIVES ME AN IDEA!

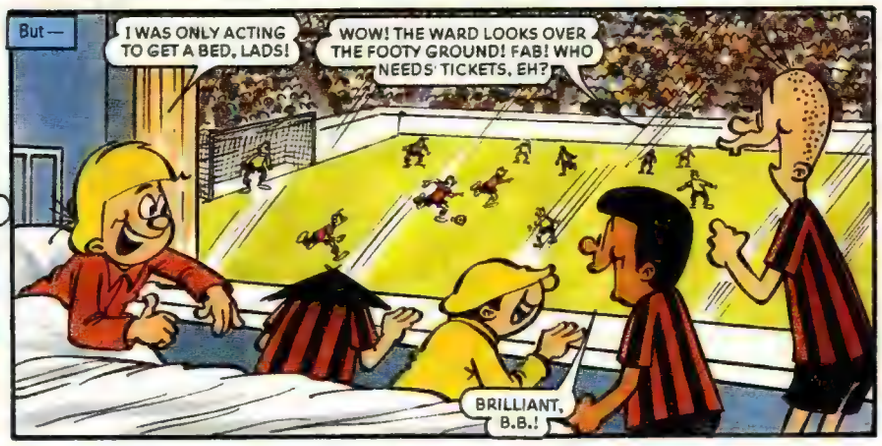
Soon —
PHEEP! HAND BALL! NO GOAL!
PUNCH!
GASP! BALL BOY HAS DONE A MARADONA!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE NET?
GOING FISHING, OF COURSE!
GRAB!

NET!
I'VE CAUGHT A WALRUS!
HEY!
WOW! BALL BOY IS ACTING VERY, VERY WEIRD!
MUST BE THAT BUMP ON HIS HEAD!

HE'S REALLY CRAZY!
ARBROATH PLAY LOVELY FOOTBALL! FORFAR FOR THE CUP!
MAD!

That evening —
LET'S SEE IF BALL BOY IS FEELING BETTER.
BEANOTOWN HOSPITAL
WE'LL CHEER HIM UP!


But —
I WAS ONLY ACTING TO GET A BED, LADS!
WOW! THE WARD LOOKS OVER THE FOOTY GROUND! FAB! WHO NEEDS TICKETS, EH?
BRILLIANT, B.B.!

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BALL BOY

CALL Freephone 0800 318846 And find out how to get BEANO sent to your home every week

BALL BOY

I'M SO EXCITED! IT'S THE FIRST OF THE CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE MATCHES TONIGHT! THINK OF ALL THE BIG TEAMS! THE GLAMOUR!
YEAH! GLAMOUR!

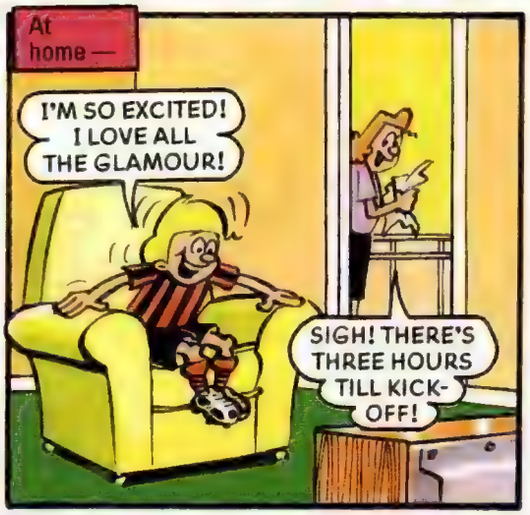
THINK OF ALL THE GLAMOUR!
WHAT? IT'S MORE GLAMOROUS THAN SIGNING AUTOGRAPHS FOR OUR FANS?
GLICKETY KICK!

WHAT? MORE GLAMOROUS THAN A CUP TIE AWAY TO ARBROATH ON A WET TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER?
LET ME THINK.

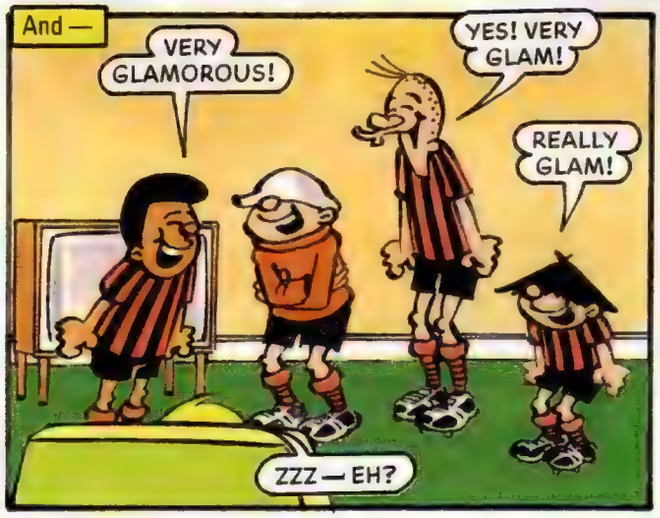
BRR!
YES!
CAN'T ARGUE.

IS IT MORE GLAMOROUS THAN SHARING A DRESSING ROOM WITH TICH?
TICH?

I'M SO EXCITED ABOUT THE GLAMOROUS GAME. I'M OFF HOME NOW — I CAN'T WAIT!
BUT IT'S HOURS TILL KICK-OFF. WE'LL BE ROUND LATER!


At home —
I'M SO EXCITED! I LOVE ALL THE GLAMOUR!
SIGH! THERE'S THREE HOURS TILL KICK-OFF!

I'M SO — SO — SO — YAAWWN!
READY, TEAM?
LET'S GO!


And —
VERY GLAMOROUS!
YES! VERY GLAM!
REALLY GLAM!
ZZZ — EH?

EH? UH? IT'S NOT TIME FOR THE GAME, IS IT?
NO —

UGH!
YUP! EASILY!
TRUE!

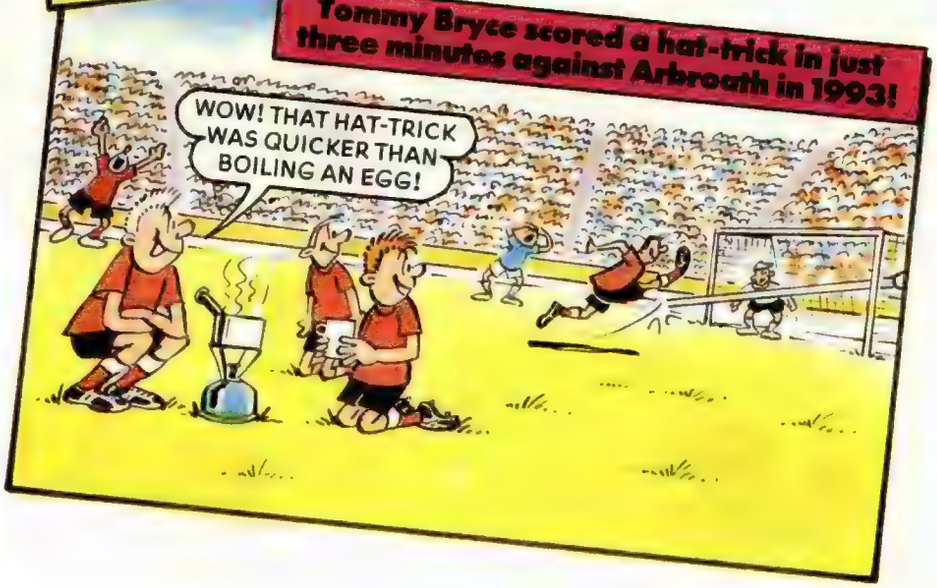
SORRY!
OO!
YES!

SO HE LIKES GLAMOUR, EH?
I'VE BROUGHT MY SISTER'S MAKE UP!
ZZZ

— IT'S YOU THAT'S ALL GLAMOROUS! NOT THE GAME! HA-HA!
WHAT'VE THEY DONE???

IT'S GAMES BETWEEN EUROPEAN CHAMPS THIS WEEK. BUT HAVE A LOOK AT THESE GUYS — THEY'RE EUROPEAN CHUMPS!
LOST PROPERTY
ER, COULD YOU FIND US A WIN, PLEASE?
Poole Town lost 39 consecutive League and Cup games in 1995/6.

The smallest crowd ever was at Stockport v. Leicester in 1921. Only 13 people turned up!
I KEEP THINKING I'VE FORGOTTEN TO DO SOMETHING!
OPEN THE GATES, GROUNDSMAN!
LET US IN!


Tommy Bryce scored a hat-trick in just three minutes against Arbroath in 1993!
WOW! THAT HAT-TRICK WAS QUICKER THAN BOILING AN EGG!

BALL BOY

IT'S 0-0 WITH ALMOST NO TIME LEFT!
COME ON, CAPTAIN. HELP US OUT!
I'M CAPTAIN.

AND IT'S TIME I PLAYED A CAPTAIN'S PART. CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS, THAT'S ME. TIME I PROVED IT.

WOW!
McNICOLL
SLIDING IN BRAVELY!
COR! WHAT A BRAVE TACKLE, CAPTAIN!

BENJY! ONE-TWO! KNOCK IT BACK TO ME!
SURE, CAPTAIN!

GEE WHIZZ! WHAT A COURAGEOUS HEADER!
INCREDIBLY BRAVE DIVE!
GOAL!

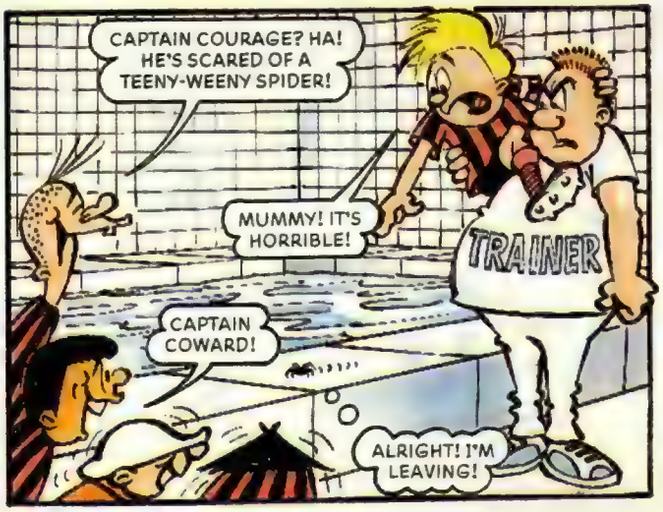
1-0! 1-0! 1-0! WE WIN!
BAH!
WHAT A CAPTAIN!

WAHEY! WELL DONE, CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS!
YAHOO!

ALRIGHT, LADS! TIME TO GET CHANGED.
AFTER YOU, BRAVE CAPTAIN!

SIGH! IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY!
SO MODEST, OUR CAPTAIN COURAGE!

AARGH!
EH?
WHAT'S WRONG?


CAPTAIN COURAGE? HA! HE'S SCARED OF A TEENY-WEENY SPIDER!
MUMMY! IT'S HORRIBLE!
TRAINER
CAPTAIN COWARD!
ALRIGHT! I'M LEAVING!

BALL BOY

PHEW! FREE AT LAST! THE RUGBY WORLD CUP KICKS OFF THIS WEEK, READERS.

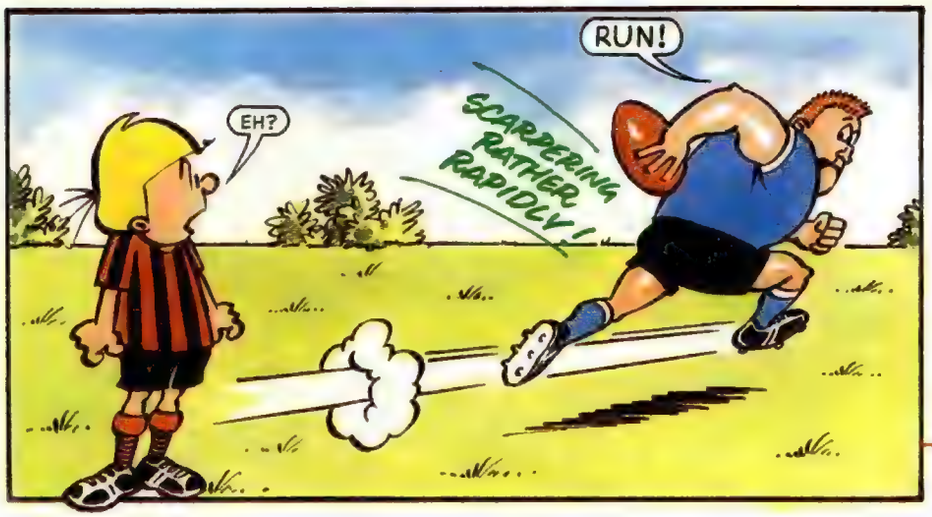
BUT I'M A FOOTY FAN. I NEED A PAL TO SHOW ME ABOUT RUGGER!
NOTHING ONE, TWO, THAT'S ALL!

I'LL SHOW YOU, BALL BOY. JUST WATCH THIS.
GAVIN! WHY'RE YOU PAINTING MY FOOTBALL?

TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A CHRISTMAS PUD!
LOB!
SLOBBER!

THANKS, FATTY! YOU'VE SPAT THE BALL INTO AN OVAL. PERFECT FOR RUGBY.
BAH! THAT'S NOTTA PUD!
BOP!
PTOOEY!
OWYAH!

THE RULES OF RUGBY ARE SIMPLE. JUST GRAB THE BALL AND RUN, AS IF A PACK OF WILD ANIMALS WAS AFTER YOU.
WHAT?


RUN!
EH?
SCARPERING RATHER RAPIDLY!

SILLY GUY! THERE ISN'T A PACK OF WILD ANIMALS AROUND HERE.
WAAAH!
TAP! TAP!

But —

BALL BOY TOO!

EEEEEEK! A PACK OF WILD ANIMALS!

'AT'S NO WAY TA SPEAK 'BOUT US!

GNEE-HEE! DUNNO, THOUGH!

OH, DEAR! HE'S CAUGHT LIKE A HADDOCK!

YEOW!

ER, NEXT TIME, DIVE BETWEEN RUGBY POSTS.

DOH!

NO, NO, NO! KICK IT OVER THE BAR!

GOAL!

GOAL!

GOAL!

GOAL!

GOAL!

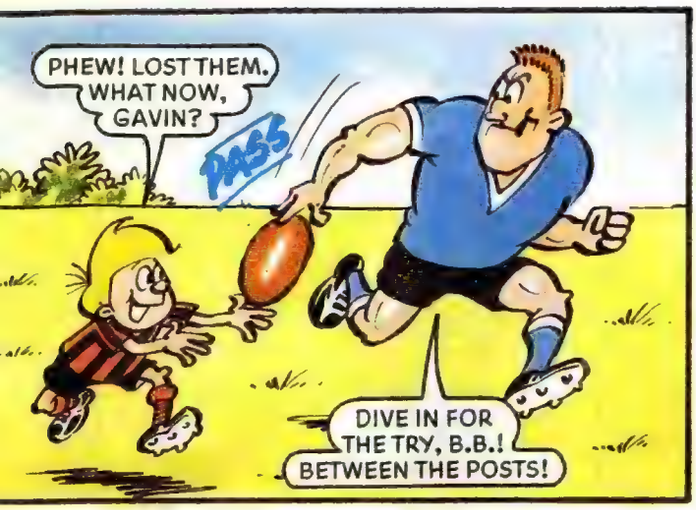
NEVER MIND. WHO SHOULD I SUPPORT AT THE RUGBY WORLD CUP?

NO, TA, GAVIN. WHO ELSE?

WAIT THERE!

RUBBISH DUMP

THIS IS WHAT I'M AFTER.


PHEW! LOST THEM. WHAT NOW, GAVIN?
PASS
DIVE IN FOR THE TRY, B.B.! BETWEEN THE POSTS!

OH, NO! FOOTBALL POSTS!
DIVE!
WAHEY!

YOU SCORED A TRY. NOW YOU'VE GOT TO CONVERT IT!
KICK IT OVER THE BAR?

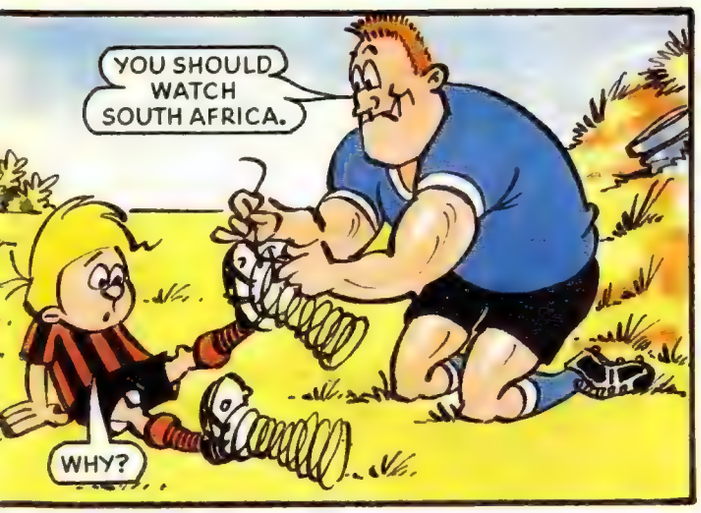
OH, DEAR!
BLOOTER!

I'VE SCORED A GOAL!
THAT NEVER HAPPENS WHEN YOU PLAY FOOTY!

WELL, YOU COULD WATCH . . .

. . . NEW ZEALAND!
WAH!

THEY'RE KNOWN AS "THE ALL BLACKS", JUST LIKE YOU!
BAH!


YOU SHOULD WATCH SOUTH AFRICA.
WHY?

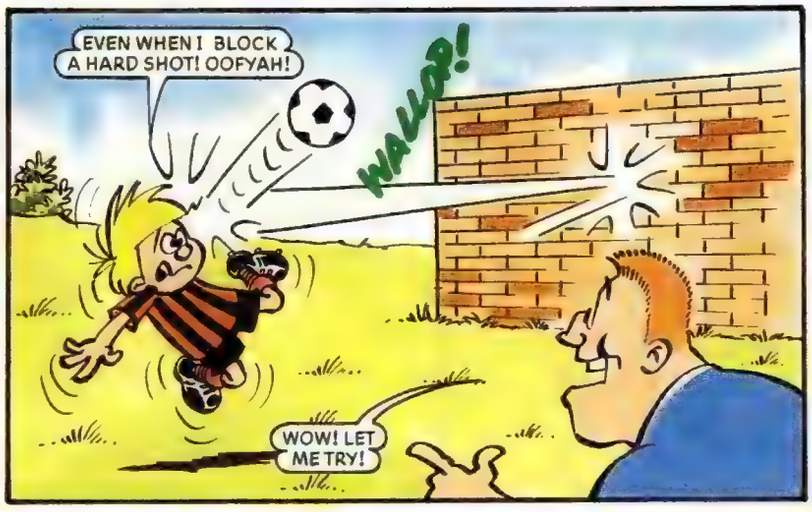
THEY'RE KNOWN AS "THE SPRINGBOKS!" HA-HA!
HELP!
PYOING!
PYOING!
LOOK OUT FOR THAT —

HOWL!
TREE!
FINAL PYOING!

HA-HA! WHAT A SOFTY LOT YOU FOOTBALLERS ARE!
OO!

US BIG, TOUGH RUGBY PLAYERS NEVER GET HURT. NOT LIKE YOU WIMPY FOOTY GUYS.
ME? I NEVER GET HURT AT FOOTBALL. LET ME SHOW YOU!

I NEVER, EVER GET HURT.
KABLAM!


EVEN WHEN I BLOCK A HARD SHOT! OOFYAH!
WALLOP!
WOW! LET ME TRY!

YOU KNOW WHY I NEVER, EVER GET HURT, PAL?
DO TELL!
BOOT!

YEEOWCH!
WALLOP!
I NEVER GET HURT BECAUSE — LOOK WHO OUR TRAINER IS!

COO-EE! ARE YOU HURT? LET ME KISS IT BETTER FOR YOU!
AARGH! IT'S WALTER!
HA-HA!

And —
AH! TIME TO WATCH THE RUGBY WORLD CUP, NOW I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!
SHRIEK!
YOO-HOO! KISSY-KISSY!

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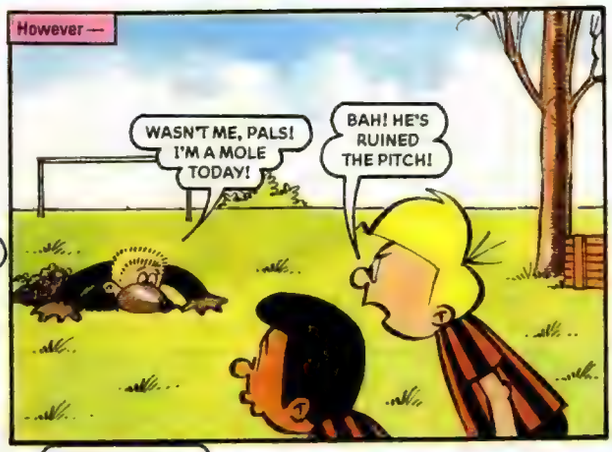
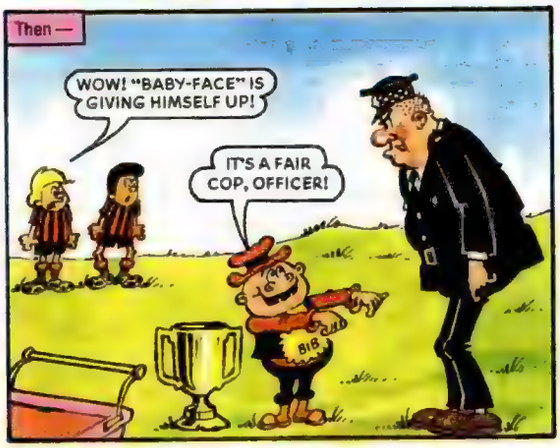
BALL BOY





THE BEANO
YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH

BALL BOY

WE'VE GOT A NEW TEAM SPONSOR, MISTER AMP, THE ELECTRICAL SHOP OWNER. WE'VE GOT TO GIVE HIM A GOOD GAME — SO I'LL BE GIVING THE GUYS A SPECIAL TEAM TALK.

RIGHT, LADS! LISTEN UP!

WE'RE GONNA FIGHT FOR EVERY BALL! WE'RE GONNA WIN! COME ON! YOU CAN DO IT!

But —

Next —
TWO-FOUR-SIX-EIGHT! WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?
BOOM!

But —
GASP! WHEW?

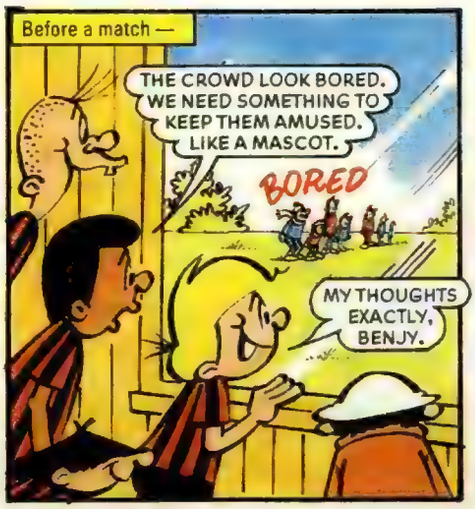
HOI! ARE YOU LOT LISTENING?
SHAKE
SHAKE
LEAP

Then —
OH, NO! MISTER AMP! HE'S COMING THIS WAY!

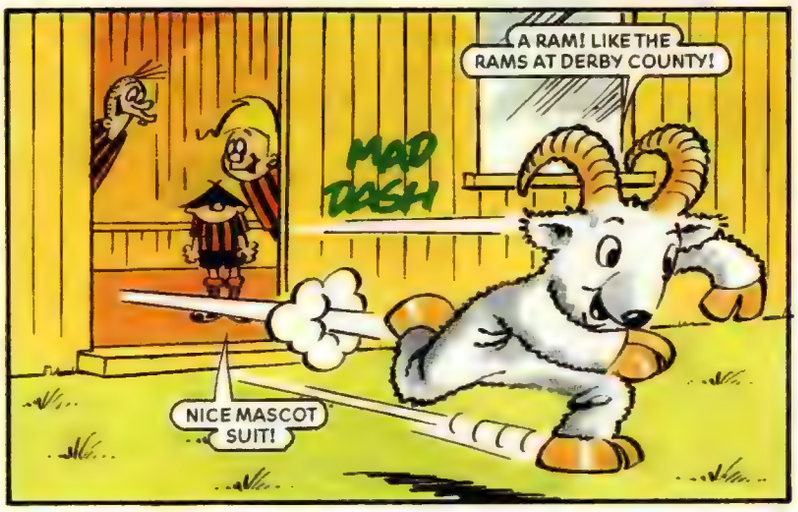
Suddenly —
HELLO!
NICE TO SEE YOU!
HIYA!
HI!
WHAT?

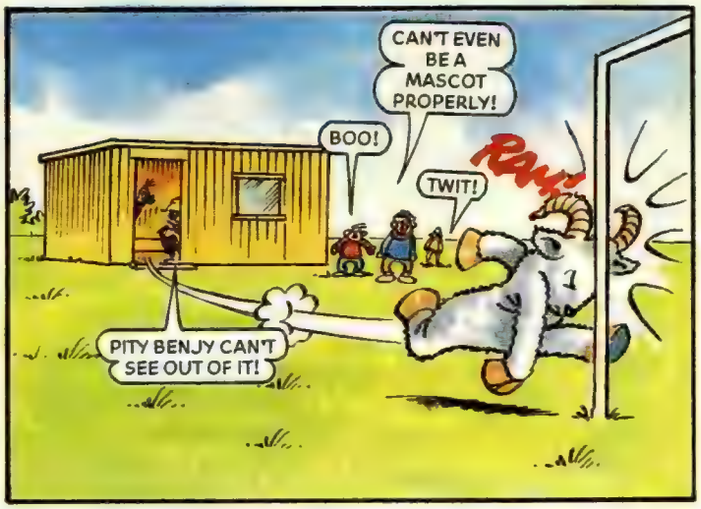
THANKS FOR THE PERSONAL STEREOS!
HUH! NO WONDER THEY DIDN'T HEAR MY ROUSING TEAM TALK!
EH?

BALL BOY


Before a match —
THE CROWD LOOK BORED. WE NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP THEM AMUSED. LIKE A MASCOT.
BORED
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, BENJY.

LET'S TRY A FEW SUITS.
ME FIRST! BUT WHICH ANIMAL?


A RAM! LIKE THE RAMS AT DERBY COUNTY!
MAD DASH
NICE MASCOT SUIT!


CAN'T EVEN BE A MASCOT PROPERLY!
BOO!
TWIT!
RAM!
PITY BENJY CAN'T SEE OUT OF IT!

ME NEXT! A LION LIKE MILLWALL!
DOH!

OOPS! I CAN'T SEE EITHER!
WAH!
HOWL!
CRUNCH!

OO! OW! OO! ME TOOTSIES! OW!
PLOP!
WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH!
THROB!
WE'RE OFF!
THEY ARE WORSE THAN EVER! AMAZINGLY!
WAARGH!

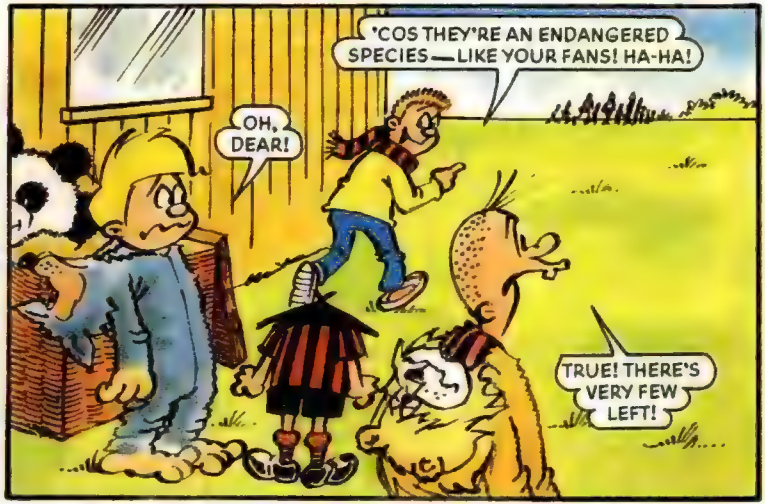
I'LL HAVE TO BE THE MASCOT! WOLVES HAVE A WOLF!

LOOK WHAT YOUR PLAYERS DID TO MY BUNION! LOOK!
OO!

FAINT!
DISGRACEFUL!
ENOUGH FOR ME!

I'M THE LAST FAN YOU HAVE LEFT. LET ME TELL YOU WHICH ANIMAL SHOULD BE YOUR MASCOT!
A BIG, TOUGH RHINO, LIKE ME? OR A CAT— GRACEFUL LIKE OUR GOALKEEPER?

NO—THIS ONE! A PANDA!
A PANDA? BUT WHY?


'COS THEY'RE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES—LIKE YOUR FANS! HA-HA!
OH, DEAR!
TRUE! THERE'S VERY FEW LEFT!

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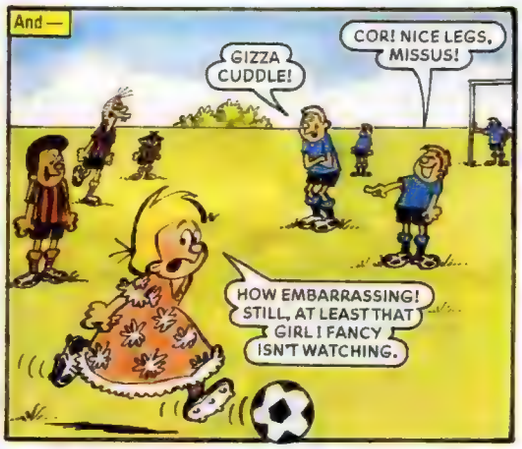
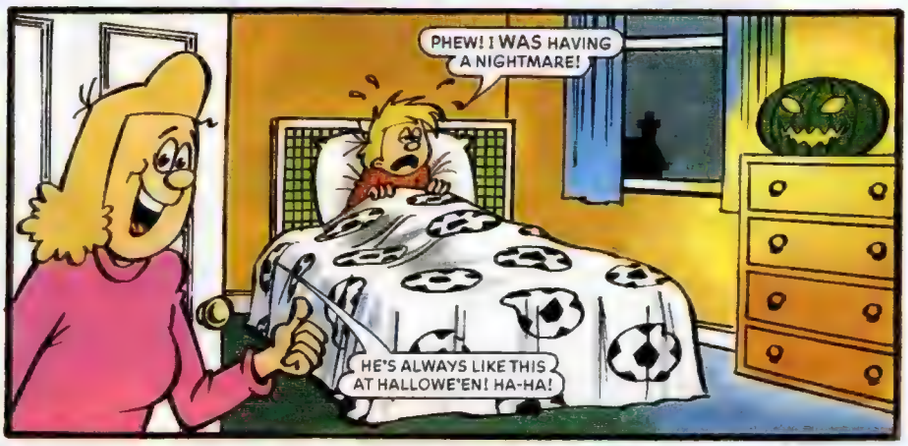
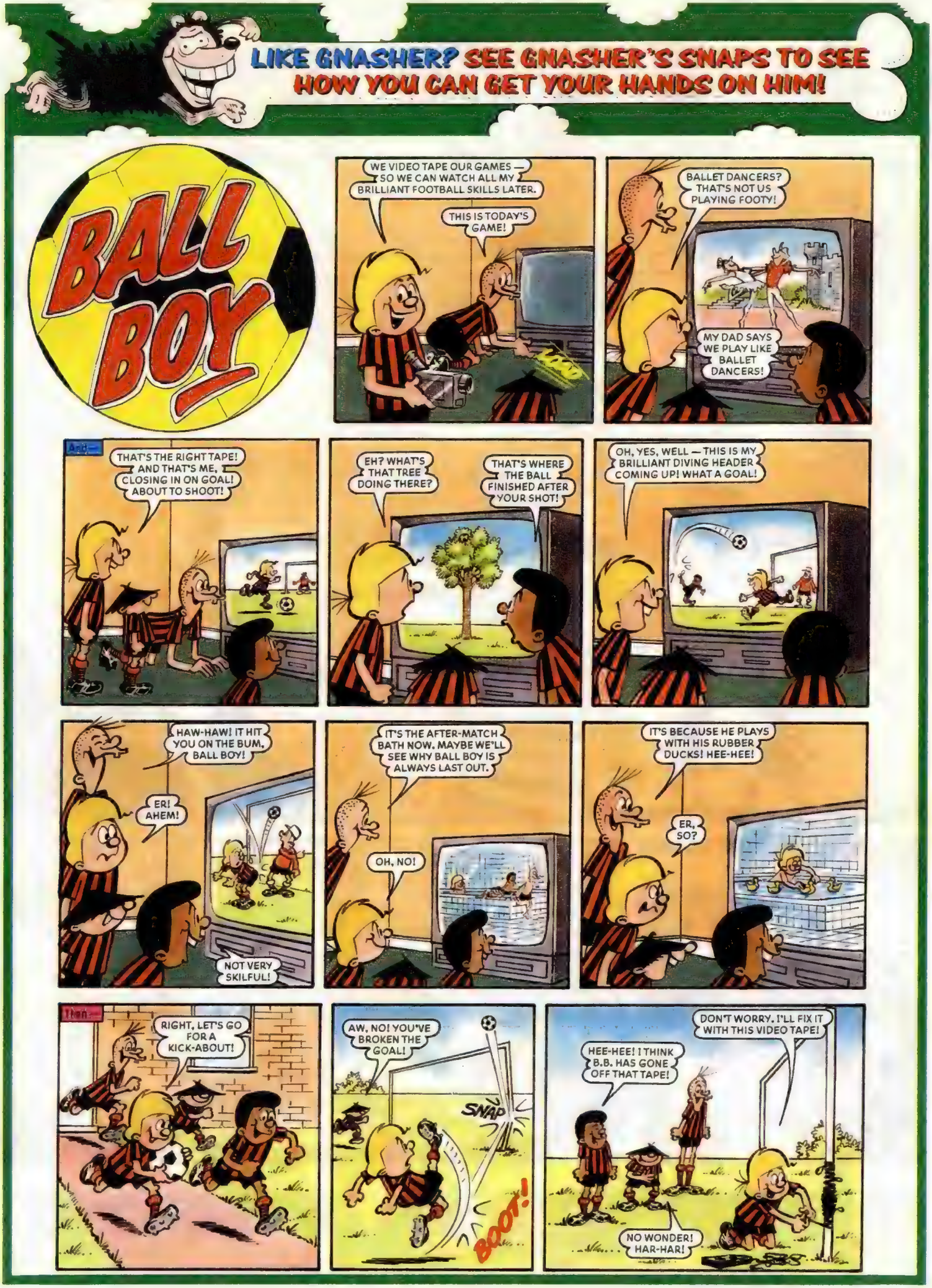
BALL BOY



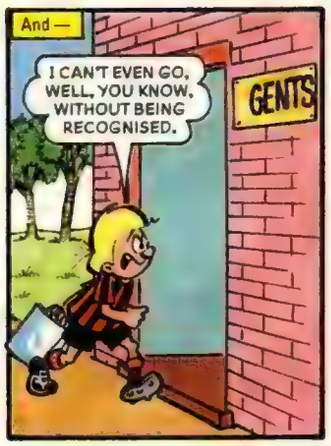


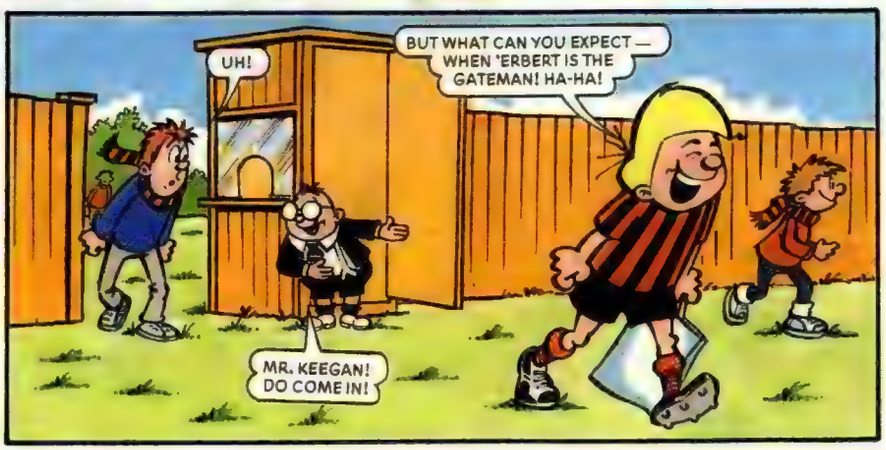

LIKE GNASHER? SEE GNASHER'S SNAPS TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON HIM!
BALL BOY
WE VIDEO TAPE OUR GAMES — SO WE CAN WATCH ALL MY BRILLIANT FOOTBALL SKILLS LATER.
THIS IS TODAY'S GAME!
BALLET DANCERS? THAT'S NOT US PLAYING FOOTY!
MY DAD SAYS WE PLAY LIKE BALLET DANCERS!
Anti—
THAT'S THE RIGHT TAPE! AND THAT'S ME, CLOSING IN ON GOAL! ABOUT TO SHOOT!
EH? WHAT'S THAT TREE DOING THERE?
THAT'S WHERE THE BALL FINISHED AFTER YOUR SHOT!
OH, YES, WELL — THIS IS MY BRILLIANT DIVING HEADER COMING UP! WHAT A GOAL!
HAW-HAW! IT HIT YOU ON THE BUM, BALL BOY!
ER! AHEM!
NOT VERY SKILFUL!
IT'S THE AFTER-MATCH BATH NOW. MAYBE WE'LL SEE WHY BALL BOY IS ALWAYS LAST OUT.
OH, NO!
IT'S BECAUSE HE PLAYS WITH HIS RUBBER DUCKS! HEE-HEE!
ER, SO?
Then—
RIGHT, LET'S GO FOR A KICK-ABOUT!
AW, NO! YOU'VE BROKEN THE GOAL!
SNAP
BOOT!
HEE-HEE! I THINK B.B. HAS GONE OFF THAT TAPE!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL FIX IT WITH THIS VIDEO TAPE!
NO WONDER! HAR-HAR!

LIKE GNASHER? SEE GNASHER'S SNAPS TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON HIM!
BALL BOY
WELL, LOTS OF BIG FOOTBALL TEAMS HAVE CLUB SHOPS. WHY NOT US? THIS USED TO BE THE PIE SHOP!
BALL BOY'S MEGASTORE
AWIGHT? SAY NO MORE! ONLY THE BEST, GUV'NOR!
MY UNCLE IS HELPING ME STOCK THE MEGASTORE.
BOSH! BOSH! SPLASH IT ALL OVER!
THESE REPLICA JERSEYS ARE GREAT. ONLY FORTY POUNDS!
DRIP!
DRIP!
And —
AHA! OUR FIRST CUSTOMERS!
MUGS, MORE LIKE!
EH? THESE SHIRTS ARE NEWLY-PAINTED!
ER, TEETHING PROBLEMS!
SPLASH!
AND THIS BALL BOY PILLOWCASE.
BALL BOY'S MEGASTORE
—THE PICTURE IS STICKY-TAPED ON!
AHEM!
HEE-HEE!
WELL, CAN I INTEREST YOU IN A GENUINE BALL BOY CLOCK?
HIGH QUALITY!
HMM.
EEK! IT'S 4-45!
SO?
THAT MEANS — AW, NO! IT MEANS —
—YOU'VE MISSED THE WHOLE MATCH! THANKS TO YOU WE WERE A PLAYER SHORT! WE LOST 37-0!
SORRY, LADS!
LUCKY YOU HAVE SOME PAINT LEFT, BALL BOY!
BALL BOY'S A TWIT!
OO!

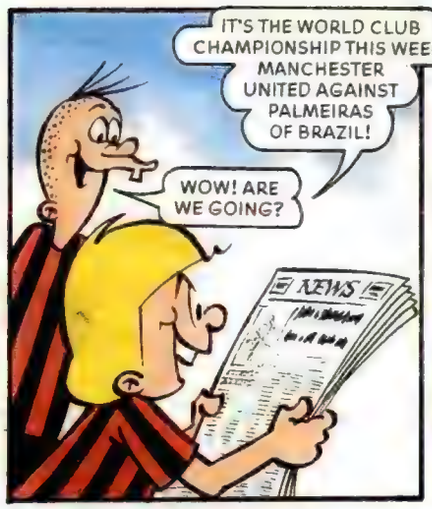
PSST! WANNA WIN A COOL T-SHIRT A HUGE POSTER AND A GREAT PRACTICAL JOKE?

'COURSE YOU DO! THEN SEND YOUR GAGS TO! JOE'S JOKE CORNER, THE BEANO, P.O. BOX 305 LONDON NW1 1TX.

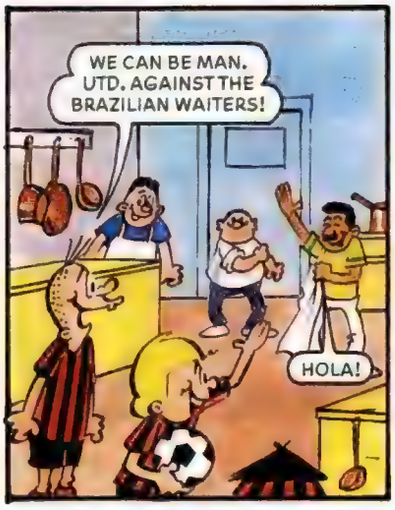




BALL BOY


IT'S THE WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP THIS WEEK. MANCHESTER UNITED AGAINST PALMEIRAS OF BRAZIL!
WOW! ARE WE GOING?
NEWS

I'M AFRAID NOT — IT'S BEING PLAYED IN TOKYO! BUT WE CAN PLAY OUR OWN VERSION OF THE GAME.
A BRAZILIAN RESTAURANT? IN BEANOTOWN?
Brazilian Restaurant


WE CAN BE MAN. UTD. AGAINST THE BRAZILIAN WAITERS!
HOLA!

So, kick-off approaches —
UH? THEIR FANS HAVE A BAND! WHAT'S THAT ABOUT, BALL BOY?

WE PLAY SAMBA FOOTBALL — WE DANCE TO THE BEAT OF OUR BAND!
TAP
OH, NO!

BRILLIANT! SAMBA FOOTBALL!
BOOM!
BOOT!
YER! QUITE GOOD! AHEM!

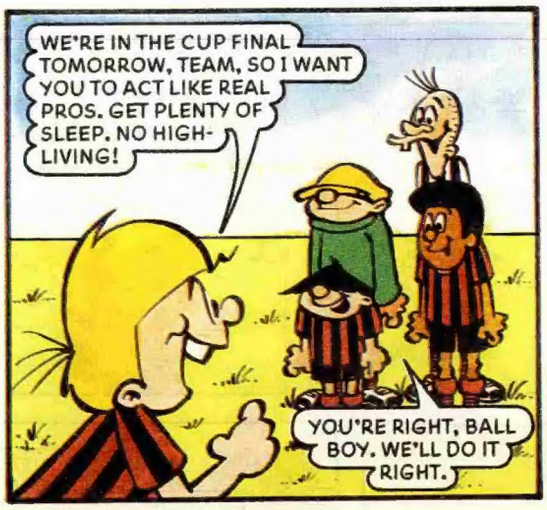
Half-time —
WELL, LADS, WE'RE 13-0 DOWN. THEY'RE DANCING ALL OVER US!

SO COME ON, LADS! WE'LL SHOW 'EM OUR KIND OF DANCING!
NO WAY, BALL BOY!
JINGLE!
YOU DON'T MEAN —

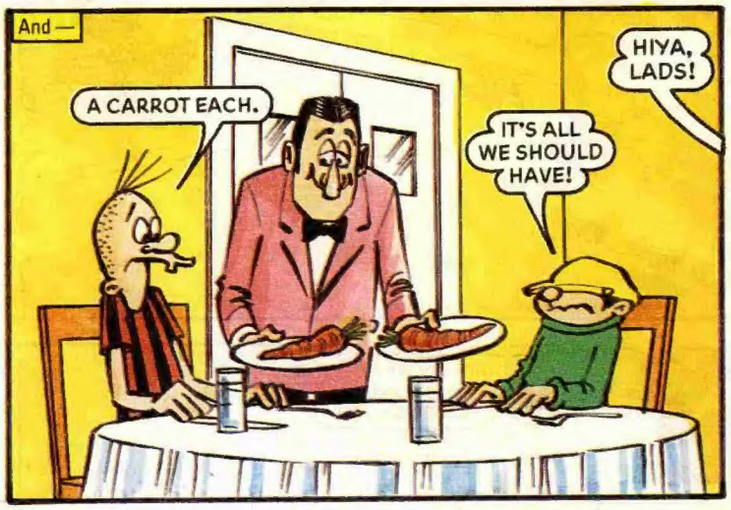
—YES! MORRIS DANCING! LET'S DO IT! WITH A HEY-NONNY-NO!
EH? WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?

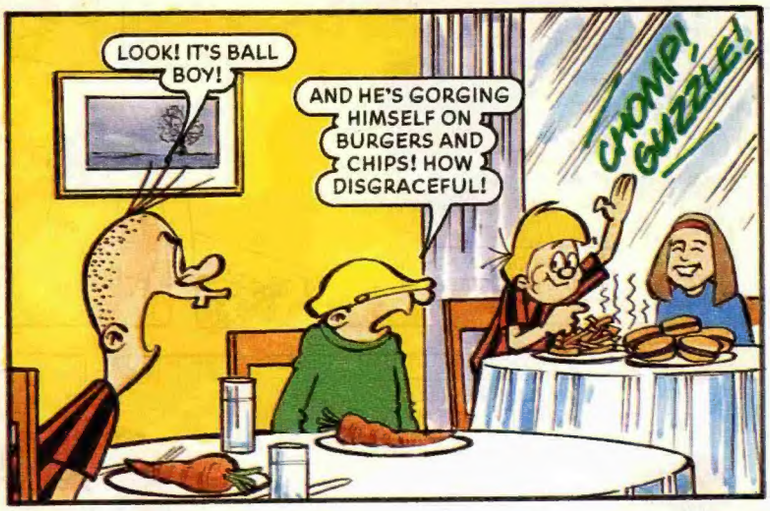
WOO-HA-HA! WALLIES! LOOK AT THEM!
13-ALL! THEY CAN'T PLAY US FOR LAUGHING!
HO-HO!
JINGLE!
SHAKE
RATTLE!
BOOT!
NO WONDER! NONNY-NO!

BALL BOY


WE'RE IN THE CUP FINAL TOMORROW, TEAM, SO I WANT YOU TO ACT LIKE REAL PROS. GET PLENTY OF SLEEP. NO HIGH-LIVING!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BALL BOY. WE'LL DO IT RIGHT.

So —
WE'LL HAVE OUR DINNER IN HERE. BUT REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AFTER OURSELVES.
YES. WE'LL BE CAREFUL WHAT WE EAT. THE BIG GAME IS TOMORROW.


And —
A CARROT EACH.
IT'S ALL WE SHOULD HAVE!
HIYA, LADS!


LOOK! IT'S BALL BOY!
AND HE'S GORGING HIMSELF ON BURGERS AND CHIPS! HOW DISGRACEFUL!
CHOMP! GUZZLE!

That night —
8 O'CLOCK. TIME FOR BED. I'LL GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP BEFORE THE CUP FINAL.

HEY! LOOK AT BALL BOY! HE'S GOING CLUBBING WITH A GIRL — THE NIGHT BEFORE OUR BIG GAME!
VICTORIA'S NITE CLUB

Next day —
GRR! I'M READY FOR THE BIG MATCH — BUT I SAW BALL BOY OUT CLUBBING — LATE!
AND WE SAW HIM STUFFING HIS BIG GOB! FUME!

Just then —
YAWN! HIYA, LADS. GOSH, I'M TIRED.
NO WONDER! YOU WERE OUT ALL NIGHT DINING AND DANCING!
WHILE WE WERE SAVING OURSELVES FOR THE BIG GAME.

EH, BUT, LADS! I CAN EXPLAIN!
COME ON, TEAM. WE'LL IGNORE HIM!
YEAH! WE'LL WIN THE CUP WITHOUT HIM.
AND HE TOLD US TO HAVE AN EARLY NIGHT!

So, the Final begins —
OUTTA MY WAY, YOU! GOAL!
EH? BUT!
SHOVE!

And —
DOH!
BARGE!
MINE! 2-0!
BOOT!

The final whistle blows —
2-0! WE'VE WON THE CUP!
YAHOO!
LOOK, LADS. THAT'S WHAT I WAS UP TO LAST NIGHT.

I HAD TO GET SOME RIBBONS IN OUR COLOURS FOR THE CUP! WAHEY!
HA-HA!
HAW-HAW!
BOO! HOO! OUR RIBBONS!

THE BEANO
YOU'VE GOT TO LAUGH

BALL BOY

WOW! WE SHOULD HELP CLEAR THE PITCH, LADS!
SNOW SHOVELLING
VOLUNTEERS WANTED
FREE MATCH TICKETS
YEAH! FREE TICKETS FOR TONIGHT'S BIG GAME.

So —
PHEW! I KEEP SHOVELLING SNOW, BUT I NEVER SEEM TO SEE THE PITCH!
NO WONDER! DIMMY'S PUSHING IT ALL BACK ON!
OOPS! SORRY!

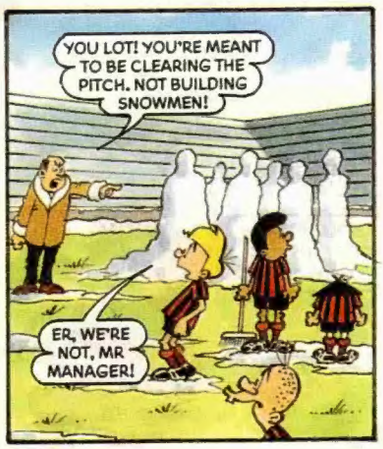
HEY! WHERE'S TICH?
MMF!
HE WAS HERE NOT LONG AGO!

LUCKY UNITED'S MASCOT IS A ST.BERNARD! HE'S RESCUED TICH!
BRRR!

Later —
HOW DO WE GET THE SNOW OFF THE NETS?
EASY!

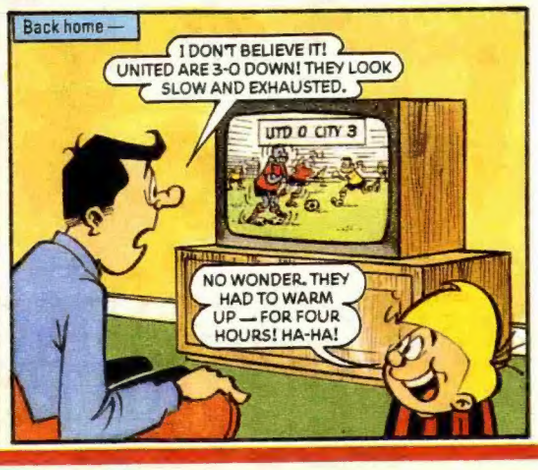
PULL!
JUST PULL AND —

PYOING!
— LET'S GO! WAHEY! THAT'S THE SNOW GONE!


YOU LOT! YOU'RE MEANT TO BE CLEARING THE PITCH. NOT BUILDING SNOWMEN!
ER, WE'RE NOT, MR MANAGER!

YOU SEE, THEY'RE YOUR PLAYERS, IN FACT.
WHAT??? YOU'VE FROZEN THEM SOLID! GET OUT OF THE STADIUM!

RIGHT, YOU LOT. TIME TO THAW OUT.
BRRR!
SO NO FREE TICKETS, EH? I'LL WATCH THE MATCH ON TELLY.


Back home —
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! UNITED ARE 3-0 DOWN! THEY LOOK SLOW AND EXHAUSTED.
UTD 0 CITY 3
NO WONDER. THEY HAD TO WARM UP — FOR FOUR HOURS! HA-HA!

Boutje Fedankt
COMICS